

THE TIMES
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MOTERING
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FRIDAY JANUARY 3 1992

40p

Queues and empty shelves as Yeltsin ends 70 years of state subsidy and control

Moscow shoppers pay the price

Some workers' wages doubled

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Ukraine yesterday ended state controls that have kept prices artificially low for seven decades, but shoppers who braved the queues found the same old empty shelves — and some stores did not open at all.

The two republics have freed most retail prices, bringing 25-fold increases in the cost of some goods, and Belarus and Turkmenia will follow suit today. Bread, milk, vodka and tobacco prices are still controlled, but even these "staples" are five times as expensive as they were on New Year's eve.

Some wages are being doubled to ease the burden, and in Ukraine and Belarus coupons are being issued on top of salaries for use instead of money in state shops. Russia has increased its minimum monthly salary to 340 roubles (£340 at official rates, £2.50 at tourist rates) and most republics are abolishing the official ceiling on wages, though state authorities are expected to want higher productivity in return for more pay. Trade unions are already demanding "market prices, market wages".

In Moscow, bread that cost 60 kopeks two days ago is now selling at nearly two roubles; the price of Polish sausage has doubled to about 60 roubles a kilogram, and carrots have gone up from 50 kopeks to nearly three roubles a kilo. "Bread is all I can afford to buy now," one elderly Muscovite said as she stashed a loaf into her bag. Petrol has gone up from 40 kopeks to 1.20 roubles a litre and taxi fares are ten times what they were.

The removal of subsidies had been expected to ease

supply problems, but most shelves remained empty. Windows advertised milk, but there was none to be found — although champagne was plentiful at 150 roubles a bottle. "This is strange: so many cows in this great country, but no milk," another elderly shopper complained.

In St Petersburg 80 per cent of shops were shut because they had no food to sell and the warehouses that supplied them were closed for stocktaking. In Moscow, too, many shops were closed and those that opened were unsure of what to charge now that state controls had gone.

Where shops had received fresh supplies — butter, sweets and alcohol were among the novelties — long queues built up and customers were limited in how much they could buy. Most shoppers took the increases calmly, regarding future price rises as inevitable. Their ability to pay up to half a month's salary for some salmon and butter indicated how people have accumulated large quantities of roubles over the past year — partly through the fourfold increase in the money supply and partly because there has been nothing in the shops to buy.

The overnight freeing of prices and simultaneous change in the tax system are seen as a crucial test of the Russian leadership's will to introduce market reforms and of the people's readiness to accept Polish-style "shock therapy". Some economists have criticised the policy, arguing that privatisation should have come first; others have predicted food riots.

Ukraine had not planned to free prices until later in the year, but was spurred into action by fears that Russians



Picking a chicken: shoppers at a Moscow market yesterday test frozen poultry for freshness — with disappointing results

would pour across the border to buy subsidised goods or that farmers would sell their produce for higher prices in the neighbouring republic.

Yesterday's abolition of subsidies was the third attempt in 18 months to reform prices. The former Soviet prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov planned to introduce reforms in June 1990, but the

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Prices rises and Yeltsin therapy, page 6
Letters, page 11

No need for interest rate rise, says bank governor

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE governor of the Bank of England yesterday ruled out an immediate rise in interest rates and backed the government in insisting that sterling should not be devalued to boost the economy.

Echoing the prime minister in his New Year's day interview, Robin Leigh-Pemberton also voiced confidence that 1992 would prove to be a year of recovery.

As the Labour leadership laid plans for months of relentless campaigning, John Major was challenged to call a general election to end the "paralysis" affecting economic policy-making.

Neil Kinnock has summoned Labour leaders to a shadow cabinet summit in London on Tuesday. The meeting will put the final touches to campaigns to explain to the electorate Labour's alternative for running the economy, and to highlight the government's "13 wasted years".

Although MPs will not return to Westminster until the following week, the Labour machine is being put into top gear for an election that the shadow cabinet expects to be in April or May. The film producer David Putnam will next week emerge from be-

hind the camera to front a Labour party political broadcast.

Conservative MPs were boosted by the intervention of the bank governor. He accepted that the economy was going through a "difficult time" because of the movement of German and American interest rates, but at present there was a "better tone" in sterling, he told the



Leigh-Pemberton: rules out a devaluation

Channel 4 programme *Business Daily*.

Emphasising that Mr Major had made plain that interest rates would be increased if necessary, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said: "There seems to me no immediate need to raise rates and I hope in the medium term there won't be either."

The governor did not believe in "knee-jerk" measures to stimulate the economy. The key to long-term recovery and a steady economy was stable economic policies in the medium term. "If we can achieve that, all things about which people are so disappointed at the moment should be ironed out in the future," he said. "It sounds perhaps a pipe dream, but it is possible to achieve this."

He then said: "All of us are confident that 1992 will be a year of recovery. People are doubting this but all forecasts, not only in the Treasury

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Peter Riddell, page 10
Sterling strengthens, page 17

Georgia set for takeover

OPPOSITION leaders in Georgia yesterday declared a state of emergency and said they had set up a military council to take over from President Gamsakhurdia, who remained under siege inside the Tbilisi parliament after 12 days of fighting. They said that Tengiz Sigua (above), the former prime minister, had been reappointed to replace Bessarion Gugushvili.....page 6

One in 12 fail breath tests

Nearly 5,000 motorists, one in 12 tested and over 1 per cent more than in 1990, gave positive breath tests in the Christmas period despite the government sponsored advertising campaign which branded drink-drivers as potential killers.....page 2

Wild weather

Arctic winds brought snow and icy rain to the Levant and disrupted living and working conditions throughout normally parched lands, with 16 in of snow in Israel.....page 16

Police defend shooting of man with replica gun

By PETER DAVENPORT

A SENIOR police officer yesterday defended the decision to shoot dead a man later found to be armed with replica weapons that could not be fired.

Ian Bennett, aged 34, died from three shots fired by a police marksman armed with a 9mm Heckler and Koch weapon at the end of a 2½-hour siege at his flat in Rastrick, West Yorkshire, on Wednesday night. Bill Hughes, West Yorkshire's Assistant Chief Constable in charge of operations, said yesterday: "Those who carry replica weapons must realise it's a very dangerous practice. It is impossible for police to tell if it is a replica without close examination."

The parents of the dead

man later claimed that police had refused to allow them an opportunity to talk their son out of the flat and to end the siege peacefully. They said that they would be taking legal advice with a view to making a formal complaint against the police.

A chief superintendent from the South Yorkshire force is already carrying out an investigation into the shooting, under the supervision of the Independent Police Complaints Authority. A copy of a video film of the shooting, made by a neighbour, was handed to police yesterday and will be studied during the investigation.

Martin Healey, who filmed the final moments of the siege from his home, said that police had not given Mr Bennett enough warning. "If they

had negotiated with him, they would probably have got him out alive. I couldn't believe it. Although he was brandishing a weapon, I did not take his threats seriously and thought he was only seeking attention."

The incident began shortly after a taxi driver reported that Mr Bennett had attacked his car with a sword. Two local officers then reported being threatened with a gun, which appeared to have

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Analysis, page 3
Police dilemma, page 10

Esso price cut sparks war at petrol pumps

By DAVID YOUNG

A PETROL price war is expected this weekend after Esso yesterday cut the price of a gallon by more than 6p. Unleaded petrol should fall below £2 a gallon, with some supermarket chains offering four-star at similar prices.

Esso's move was followed promptly by BP and Tesco. From this morning Esso will cut unleaded by 7.3p a gallon (1.6p a litre) and leaded by 6.4p a gallon (1.4p a litre). Unleaded will fall to 199.6p a gallon (43.9p a litre) and leaded to 215.9p (47.5p). Diesel comes down by 1p a litre to 43.5p. Esso said that it had cut

prices because of further reductions in the international cost of petrol and to changes in exchange rates.

BP responded immediately by cutting 6.4p a gallon (1.4p a litre) from midnight tonight, taking four-star to 216.0p (47.5p) and unleaded to 199.6p (43.9p). Diesel prices fall by 3.6p a gallon to 197.8p (43.5p). Tesco said it would cut 8p off a gallon.

This time last year prices for both leaded and unleaded were below £2 a gallon, but the Gulf war pushed up prices

Motoring, page 25

Cullers take on 'thugs of bird kingdom'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

ONE man's pest is another man's friendly little bundle of fur or feathers. Whether charged with ridding Kew of destructive grey squirrels or the Royal Parks of messy Canada geese, the capital's pest control experts are facing more and more angry opposition.

Nearly 2,000 eggs of Canada geese were plucked to prevent hatching in London's parks last year, but it was not enough. Many other eggs were replaced with wooden dummies, but the greedy bird, said to number about 10,000 in London, is still on course to double its population every five years.

Wandsworth council, whose spokesman dubbed the geese "the

thugs of the bird kingdom" took part in the egg-pricking exercise. It is now expected that up to 200 of the 800 birds in its parks this month to prevent further damage to grass and other vegetation through their grazing and droppings.

David Goode, director of the London Ecology Unit, which co-ordinated the egg-pricking exercise, said that shooting was the wrong answer because birds would simply move in from other parts of London to fill the gaps. "Egg-pricking in a consistent manner will bring the population down," he said.

If the shooting does go ahead it will undoubtedly provoke protests from animal welfare campaigners, and perhaps worse: when the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew decided two years ago to shoot large numbers of

the grey squirrels which were destroying rare tree species, staff received telephone calls threatening them with letter bombs. The shooting policy has been abandoned. Jenny Evans, in charge of pest control at Kew, said: "We are living with the problem."

The mink, now aggressively thriving in many parts of Britain after escaping from fur farms, is another creature caught in the pest controversy. One school of thought holds it to be a bloodthirsty little monster best eradicated; another, that it is a valuable new addition to British wildlife.

Colin Booty, wildlife officer for the RSPCA, says: "We have to accept that there are occasions when culling may be necessary."

The RSPCA gives two guidelines: is the culling proved necessary by sound scientific evidence rather than

just a feeling or a perception; and are there alternatives. "In the case of Wandsworth, we feel that shooting is not necessary," he said.

Extreme emotions were often aroused and were best avoided. "On the one hand there is the extreme bunny-hugging variety, the sickly sentimentalists who don't want to see any killing whatsoever, and on the other there are those people who engage in the character assassination of a species."

"Calling Canada geese 'the thugs of the bird world' is an example of this. Magpies are another example. People feel they are responsible for the decline of our songbirds. But although magpies have increased, and songbirds have declined, there is not as yet any proven link."

Leading article, page 11

TOMORROW'S TIMES

REVIEW

SPAIN

1992 is the year of wonders for Spain. Expo is in Seville, the Olympics in Barcelona, and Madrid is the European City of Culture. The *Saturday Review* is devoted entirely to this vibrant country

WEEKEND TIMES

BAD CHEER?

What do the British do at Christmas and New Year? A poll tomorrow reveals three million family rows and half a million hangovers

TODAY

PREMATURE

Richard Ingrams, aged 54, is a self-designated "oldie" — also the name of his new magazine. The Kate Muir interview Page 9

SMALLBONE

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More fail breath test despite campaign against hard-core

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL AND KERRY GILL

THE number of motorists failing breath tests over the Christmas period has increased despite the government sponsored advertising campaign which branded drink-drivers as potential killers and common criminals.

Figures released by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) yesterday showed that nearly 5,000 motorists, representing nearly 8 per cent of drivers tested, were over the limit, more than 1 per cent higher than the previous year.

The figures show that of 64,010 tests in England and Wales, 4,947 gave positive results. This compares to 5,298 the previous year, when 79,183 drivers were tested. However, the disappointing results coincided with a 22 per cent drop in the number of road accidents in which people were injured.

The reduction in the number of tests carried out was due partly to a decision to target groups which had been shown by research to be most likely to flout the law, particularly middle-aged, middle-class men.

Terrorist alerts were mainly responsible for the reduction in breath tests in London as police concentrated on security. The Metropolitan Police carried out 12,000 tests, compared to 18,000 the previous year, obtaining positive results in 835 cases, compared to 838 in 1990.

Walter Given, chief constable of Wiltshire and secretary of ACPO's traffic committee, said: "Unfortunately the encouraging trends of previous years have not been continued and despite the reduction in the number of breath tests administered, almost 8 per cent of those tested proved to be over the limit. This means that 4,947 drivers have shown a blatant disregard for the law and more importantly for the lives and safety of themselves and other road users."

In Scotland the number of motorists who failed the breath test over the new year holiday was almost three times higher than last year. During 24 hours, 29 drivers were found positive, compared to ten last year, although the number of drivers tested was greater this year. In the three days from 7am on Monday until yesterday 71 drivers were found positive, compared to 67 last year. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the under secretary of state for home affairs and the environment, Scottish Office, said he was "extremely disappointed". He said: "Motorists must realise that their chances of being caught if they drink and drive are now much greater than before, not only over holiday periods but throughout the year. Drivers should remember that alcohol remains in the body for some time after a person has stopped drinking. This means that someone could easily be over the legal limit the day after a night's drinking."

There were disappointing results from Sussex, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire police forces, which had earned a reputation for their hardline approach but which did not mount special campaigns this Christmas. In Sussex, positive tests increased from the previous year's 8.6 per cent to 16.9 per cent and the percentage of positive tests in Warwickshire rose from 9.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent. In Nottinghamshire 12.9 per cent of tests were found to be positive this year (79 out of 609) compared with 3.3 per cent (114 out of 3,462) last Christmas.

Chief Insp Roger Curtis, ACPO's traffic committee spokesman, said: "The campaign was not a failure. We have got the message over to young people not to drink and drive. It is unfortunate that a hard-core of selfish drivers are still on the road. Police would like the right to breath test any driver."



Heading east: Jim Darley, right, and Alan Lynas attending a weekly prayer meeting with the elders of the Middlesbrough mosque

Police invited to Pakistan wedding

By PETER DAVENPORT

TWO police constables who have devoted themselves to building bridges with the Asian community on their beat in central Middlesbrough have received probably the most unusual honour to date: they have been invited to Pakistan to attend the wedding of the son of the chairman of Cleveland's Islamic Society, Kurban Hussain.

The local police authority, with cross-party support, has voted to meet the £2,400 bill for the trip because of the long-term benefits it believes the visit will bring to the force. The two men will also study Pakistani policing.

Jim Darley and Alan Lynas both have homes in the working class district of Middlesbrough where most of the town's 15,000 Pakistanis live. Both have studied Punjabi and can hold fluent conversations in the language. They regularly attend pray-

ers at the local mosque and run an Asian boys' club. Yesterday, Mohammed Latif, president of the Cleveland Islamic Society, paid tribute to the dedication of the two constables. "I don't think you'll find officers like them anywhere else," he said. "They have been working in the community for a long time, are dedicated and trusted. I think the police and Asians in other areas of the country could learn things from Cleveland."

PC Darley, aged 52 and the recipient of the Queen's Police Medal in the new year honours, said: "At first, there definitely was wariness but I think we have broken through that now. I'm not a social worker, I'm still a copper and I don't let anyone get away with crime. What we try to do is ensure they know what the law is and keep people out of trouble before it happens."

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Vicar case husband is charged

The husband of a woman who said she had an affair with a vicar after the death of her child has been charged with assaulting the minister concerned. Mr Stephen Edwards has been charged with assaulting the Rev Tom Tyler, the suspended vicar of Henfield, Sussex, on New Year's eve, Lewes police said.

Mr Edwards, aged 36, of Henfield, was bailed to appear at Staying Court on February 3. Mr Tyler, aged 52, has undergone two trials in a church court over his relationship with Mrs Barbara Edwards. At the first, in November 1990, he was found guilty of adultery with Mrs Edwards.

He appealed, but at a second trial last September was found guilty of having an affair with Mrs Edwards after she turned to him for comfort when her baby died.

House prices fall by 1.2%

House prices fell by 1.2 per cent in December, wiping out the previous month's modest rise and setting the scene for a dull new year in the homes market, according to figures published today. Nationwide, Britain's second biggest building society, reported that the average price of a house fell by £705 to £56,626 last month, and is now 2.2 per cent below the same period last year. John Hutchinson, Nationwide's retail operations manager, said that any long-term improvement of the housing market would depend largely on greater confidence in the economy.

Heart success

The first heart transplant operation in Scotland was carried out yesterday, 24 hours after the opening of the new £1.25 million heart and lung centre at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The patient, aged 55, a former postman, has not been named but was said to be stable after the six-hour operation. The man, who had been given months to live, could be back home within a fortnight.

Cuts attacked

Health authority moves to cut school nurses' jobs have been condemned in a report by the Amalgamated School Nurses Association. More than 120 school nurses face losing their jobs as the South West Regional Health Authority prepares to abolish the service, and Camberwell in southeast London is about to reduce the number of school nurses by 50 per cent.

CHRISTMAS DRINK-DRIVE FIGURES

FORCE	Total breath tests		Positive tests		Accidents	
	Dec 19 to Jan 1	1990	Dec 19 to Jan 1	1990	Dec 19 to Jan 1	1990
Avon & Somerset	754	1,173	113	107	225	55
Bedfordshire	982	479	84	80	82	42
Cambridgeshire	1,600	936	47	38	92	49
Cheshire	1,032	818	106	89	128	84
City of London	98	111	10	10	7	5
Cleveland	794	598	52	57	52	58
Cumbria	611	689	56	61	66	48
Derbyshire	818	674	87	49	104	90
Devon & Cornwall	1,850	1,244	182	114	181	97
Dorset	527	422	47	42	22	36
Durham	750	710	72	77	77	48
Dyfed-Powys	612	711	53	54	48	48
Essex	3,107	2,129	148	124	145	133
Gloucestershire	527	530	96	87	103	76
GMP	5,799	4,711	425	350	328	239
Gwent	1,319	849	53	47	35	25
Hampshire	1,762	1,958	184	149	149	112
Hertfordshire	2,982	3,483	74	79	133	76
Humbly Grove	1,188	984	95	91	117	96
Kent	2,101	2,175	134	120	123	89
Lancashire	1,764	1,347	131	148	249	171
Leicestershire	1,412	1,175	99	86	98	56
Lincolnshire	1,284	1,063	50	33	147	71
Mersyside	697	1,151	140	145	221	244
Metropolitan	18,075	12,347	838	835	1,053	844
Norfolk	2,947	3,585	96	97	144	151
Northamptonshire	1,087	778	50	35	70	48
Northumbria	470	533	157	122	166	196
North Wales	2,235	1,824	87	76	81	43
North Yorkshire	429	1,175	89	89	156	123
Nottinghamshire	3,482	608	114	79	153	124
South Wales	1,395	2,035	150	146	137	123
South Yorkshire	1,271	1,058	133	117	132	56
Staffordshire	4,620	2,855	199	154	156	123
Suffolk	1,235	896	61	50	79	56
Surrey	1,411	1,721	81	83	119	106
Sussex	1,100	806	95	137	138	87
Thames Valley	4,620	2,855	199	154	156	123
Warwickshire	527	188	50	33	78	43
West Mercia	891	939	100	99	114	89
West Midlands	2,254	1,344	304	251	288	215
West Yorkshire	1,493	1,885	230	240	223	227
Wiltshire	575	1,034	80	51	44	42
Total inc Met	79,183	64,010	5,298	4,947	6,157	4,788

Judge was double drink-driver

A RETIRED county court judge who was caught drink driving twice in a week, including once outside a police station, has been banned for two years and fined £700.

Charles Munro, aged 73, of Rochester, Kent, admitted two charges at Medway magistrates court, Chatham.

Michael O'Flaherty, prosecuting, said that police stopped Mr Munro 200 yards from Rochester police station at 9.43pm on November 23. Tests showed that he had 79mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, against the legal limit of 35mg.

A week later, an officer saw him reversing out of a lay-by outside the police station. A breath test showed he had 67mg of alcohol.

Patrick Bligh, defending, said that Mr Munro had been under great stress because his wife had Alzheimer's disease. He had a heart condition which meant

he had to use a car rather than walk.

After the hearing, Chief Inspector Ian Ovenson of Rochester police said that the second offence had been committed after Mr Munro had reported to the station to show his driving documents. The police officer who took his details suspected him of drinking. He followed Mr Munro out of the police station and saw him attempting to drive away.

For the earlier offences, which began in January 1990, the boy, of Wandsworth, south-west London, was sentenced to supervision orders, community service and a period at an attendance centre. The rape took place in May last year - the month that boy received a 40-hour community service order for burglary and 12 hours at an attendance centre for attempted burglary.

Judge Lowry said: "The case draws attention to the fact that legislation currently not only fetters the juvenile court but sometimes prevents the court from depriving a child or young person of his liberty. The case gives rise to the reflection that if this young man had been brought up in his tracks earlier and obliged to attend a special school or similar institution, he would not only be retrained but receive guidance and have learnt self-control."

The court was told that the rape victim, a virgin, was wearing school uniform when tricked into entering a bedroom by the boy and forced to have sex. Two other youths who burst into the room during the attack sniggered when they saw what was going on and were told to leave. Judge Lowry said: "It's my view he was showing off."

Sky shows limit of teachers' knowledge

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHILE seven-year-olds gaze out of the classroom window as part of lessons to plot the path of the sun as the Earth spins in its orbit, many of their teachers will be wondering precisely where they are.

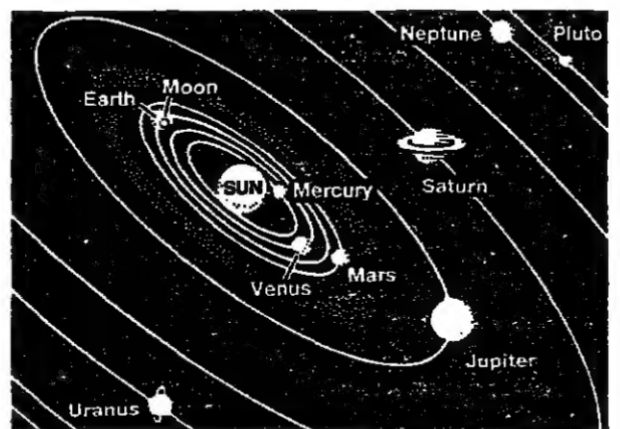
Four out of five teachers can not correctly place the Earth, the Sun and the Moon in the solar system, and only one in ten knows the distances of the Sun and the Moon from Earth, according to an Oxford University survey. Their pupils will be expected to know the answers as part of the compulsory national curriculum.

The research is part of a review of the extra training required for primary school teachers to enable them to teach the national curriculum introduced two years ago for mathematics, English and science for children aged from five to eleven.

Children aged seven are expected to know that the Earth, Sun and Moon are spherical bodies, and that the appearance of the Moon and the altitude of the Sun change in a regular, predictable manner, and to be able to describe the apparent movement of the Sun.

Their teachers, however, are not best placed to help them. Few knew where the Moon is in the sky, or the path it takes around the Earth, according to the survey, to be presented to the annual meeting of the Association of Science Education in Sheffield today.

One researcher, Jenny



Manse, said: "We are not doing this research to knock teachers. There is a need to know what training they need if they are to be expected to teach science. These people are intelligent, committed teachers, wanting to get background knowledge and excited by the possibility of teaching science."

Lessons for seven-year-olds include noting the position of the Sun through a classroom window at different times and drawing pictures showing its position: imagining that they are in space and drawing the Earth, the Sun and the Moon as they would see them; and making records of the Moon over a month and of the path of the Sun on two days months apart.

For our younger readers: the Moon orbits the Earth, and the Earth and the other planets orbit the Sun. The Sun is 92 million miles from Earth, the Moon 238,854 miles, and the orbit of Venus, the nearest planet, is 248 million miles from the Earth's orbit.

BBC Radio 2 received several telephone calls from listeners after yesterday's Jimmy Young programme in which David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Headteachers, twice said that ten times 2½ was "about thirty".

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Pooled cancer studies reveal life-saving treatments

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW study of breast cancer has produced results that should save the lives of 10,000 women a year, including 1,000 in Britain.

The study, carried out at Oxford and published today in *The Lancet*, pooled the results of 133 smaller studies throughout the world to create a statistically solid base for assessing the effectiveness of hormone-blocking and cell-killing drugs in the years after breast cancer surgery.

According to Richard Peto, the study team's leader, the results are the best for the drug treatment of cancer that he has seen in 20 years of research.

Mr Peto, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's cancer studies unit at Oxford, said: "Every decade, millions of women are operated on for early breast cancer. Our study shows that if just one million are given the additional treatments, then there will be about an extra 100,000 women surviving ten years after diagnosis."

Breast cancer is one of the main killers, and the commonest single cause of death in women between 35 and 54 in Britain. Survival rates vary greatly according to the stage at which the disease is diagnosed.

The improvements in survival shown by the study, which covered 75,000 patients, are not in themselves dramatic. None offers a miracle cure, and many thousands of women will continue to die of breast cancer.

However, because so many suffer it — there are 25,000

new cases a year in Britain alone — even a modest improvement that can be convincingly demonstrated will save many lives.

One of the most interesting results, Mr Peto said, was that a form of treatment used in the 1950s, but since abandoned, had been vindicated.

Ovarian ablation — destruction of the ovaries by surgery or irradiation — brings on an early menopause, cutting off the oestrogen that is thought to nourish the cancers. The treatment went out of fashion when small trials failed to show a clear benefit. Adding the results together has shown that of every 100 women given the treatment, ten more were alive ten years later than among an equivalent group that had no such treatment. After 13 years the benefit was even greater, with 13 more in every 100 alive.

The study also assessed benefits of the drug tamoxifen, which blocks the natural supply of oestrogen, and of cell-killing drugs, used to eliminate any cancer cells that may still be in the body after surgery. Tamoxifen, taken usually for no more than two years after surgery, produces an 8 per cent gain in survival after ten years. Cell-killing drugs alone produce a 5 per cent gain, and, when the two are used together, the gain is 12 per cent.

Michael Richards, a consultant at the ICRF breast cancer unit at Guy's Hospital, said that the study results had surprised the experts. In particular, it had found that the effects of even short-term drug treatments persisted for many years and were clearer after ten years than after five — the opposite of what most specialists had expected. The precise treatments offered would depend on the age of the patient, he said, but the trial had made possible "much greater certainty and confidence" in treating the disease.

Richard Gray, a senior scientist at the Oxford unit, said that the figures showed that the improvement in survival after ten years was about twice as great as after five years.

BT discount

People who dial up big bills on their home telephones were offered the chance of new discounts yesterday. Last September, BT introduced new standard call charges which automatically gave reductions on high call bills. Now it is launching Option 15 for residential customers, which it says will offer bigger discounts for high diallers with quarterly calls bills of more than £62.16p. Under the scheme — part of a BT pricing policy announced last August — subscribers will pay a £3.40 fee per quarter.

Cruft's to clean up the canine image

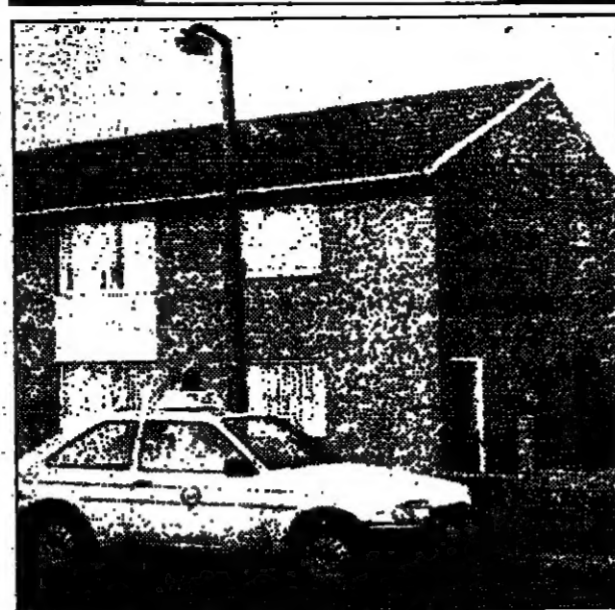
BY LOUISE HIDALGO

SCOOP, train and be responsible is to be the message of this year's Cruft's dog show when it opens next week. In an attempt to improve a canine image tarnished by reports of savage attacks and by befouled pavements, organisers of the dog world's most important competition intend to spread the gospel of responsible dog ownership.

Poop-scoops are to be presented to owners of the almost 70,000 entries when they arrive on Thursday to seek the silver trophy for the dog decreed Best in Show. Bill Edmund, of the Kennel Club, said: "We expect them to use them." mindful of this year's carpeted venue of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and probably of the 1,000 tons of excrement Britain's dogs produce each day.

The 80,000 visitors expected over four days are to see demonstrations and stalls promoting responsible ownership, and a new event is to highlight the caring face of the dog world.

Dogs trained to assist the blind, the deaf and the disabled, and a canine unit set up by the West Midlands police to help child victims of dog attacks to overcome their fears, will be paraded alongside personalities such as Lottie the rottweiler,



Gun siege: Ian Bennett (above left) whom police said was given three warnings before he was shot dead by a marksman at his Rastrick flat and (right) an armed officer at the scene

Police burden of deadly choices

AS the use of firearms by criminals has increased over the past decade, police officers have found themselves forced on occasions to make split-second decisions that left innocent or disturbed people dead and seriously dented public confidence.

Police say that even the most highly qualified firearms specialist would find it hard to differentiate between a loaded weapon and a realistic replica when confronted by a suspect in the heat of a siege. Last August, police marksmen fatally wounded a man who had been threatening them with what proved to be an unloaded air pistol. Ian Gordon, aged 24, of Wellington, Shropshire, had a history of psychiatric problems.

Subsequently, the Gordon family decided to sue West Mercia police for damages, alleging negligence and possible breaches of the firearms regulations. A witness to the killing said that, minutes before police opened fire, she had heard a voice saying: "It's a toy gun... it won't harm you."

Last October, police shot dead a man armed with a starting pistol after a seven-hour siege. Derek Wallbanks, who had jumped bail on a firearms charge, ignored repeated calls to surrender. When he appeared on the doorstep of a bungalow at Brunswick village, near Newcastle, Wallbanks discharged his weapon twice before officers returned fire.

Wallbanks had a long and violent criminal record. A

In the aftermath of the Rastrick siege, Bill Frost reports on police reaction when faced with real or replica weapons

police spokesman said: "We gave him every chance to surrender, but he just started firing."

In 1985, after two shootings by police in two months, strict guidelines were laid down for the occasions when they could use firearms. Officers are now selected for aptitude rather than enthusiasm. All recruits undergo intense psychological screening to ensure they can deal with stress. They are taught to avoid head shots and aim for the chest.

Twenty-six police officers have been killed on the British mainland over the past ten years.

Late last year, two policemen were murdered in London. Both were stabbed after stopping suspects in separate incidents. Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan police, said that the killings illustrated "with awful clarity" what society expected of the police.

Last month, a sergeant was seriously wounded in London after being shot in the hip when he tried to question two men whose car had been halted by a patrol.

Siege controversy, page 1
Police dilemma, page 10

Homes hit by gales and floods

BY KERRY GILL

ABERDEEN yesterday recorded its highest January temperature since records began, 14.7C (58.5F), according to Glasgow weather centre. While Scotland experienced generally mild temperatures, however, gales and heavy rain swept much of the country, flooding some low-lying valleys and causing widespread damage.

Police monitored rivers in the Spey valley after they reached a critical level, and 999 calls in the Ardnarmurchan area, Highland, were put out of action when a gale buckled a radio aerial on the peninsula.

A landslide blocked the A82 Inverness to Fort William road at Letterfinlay. Many buildings were damaged, and in Shetland at least 25 families were made homeless, many from a Lerwick caravan site where winds that at times reached 120mph blew over several caravans. Many homes in Shetland and the Western Isles had power cuts.

Also in the Western Isles, Archibald Macintosh, aged 53, of Balivanish, Benbecula, died in a house that was destroyed by fire during high winds.

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'Children denied ear surgery'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN are being denied treatment for "glue ear", which can cause ear infections and partial deafness, because doctors are failing to take account of the social consequences of the condition, according to the National Deaf Children's Society.

One in four children are affected, it says, suffering a build-up of fluid behind the ear drum, yet many GPs say that the children will grow out of it. Even those referred for surgery face waits of up to two years.

"It is true that as children get older they get better and the trend now is to do nothing," Robert Ashby, a society spokesman, said. "In medical terms that is valid. But, meanwhile, the child has not learnt to speak properly and literacy is very poor. There are social factors — it is not just a medical situation."

Dr Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, said that it was worth carrying out the operation on some children. "The problem is that it is overdone and there is a question of where you draw the line."

GPs' views sought on 24hr cover

BRITAIN'S 36,000 general practitioners are to be asked whether they wish to continue providing a 24-hour service to their patients in one of the largest surveys of medical opinion undertaken (Jeremy Laurance writes).

At present GPs are responsible for their patients night and day but may subcontract the work to partners, other practices or deputising services. In a 19-page questionnaire, the British Medical Association suggests that cover could be provided through privately organised rotas or by encouraging patients to attend the accident department of a hospital where a GP would always be available. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the association's GPs committee, said that there was a widespread feeling that the 24-hour commitment was outdated.

The questionnaire will also ask doctors whether patients should pay for treatment, what services GPs should provide and how standards should be maintained. The findings will be published in April.

Prince and pauper yield their secrets

By LIN JENKINS

DETAILS of the private lives of all from prince to pauper a century ago became public yesterday when the 1891 census returns were opened for inspection for the first time. There was, however, no mention of the monarch, who was holidaying on the French Riviera on the night that the snapshot of Victorian life was taken.

Sandringham's return lists Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, as aged 49, born at Buckingham Palace, London, head of his household and an employer. Above his name, which like everyone else in the country received a one line entry, is Emily Cook.



Prince Edward: listed as head of household

a widowed parlour maid living at the rectory on the estate. The entry lists 174 people on the Sandringham estate, including the princesses Maud and Victoria, Margaret of Prussia, Lady Suffield, a visitor, Annie Poole, the coffee room maid, and numerous parlour maids, kitchen staff and estate workers.

The year was punctuated by strikes on the railways, in the docks, on London buses and for the first time ever in the civil service when clerks in the Post Office savings bank rebelled against compulsory overtime.

The newspapers that year attributed a tenth London murder to Jack the Ripper, the Marquess of Salisbury's government easily defeated a vote on one man, one vote, and the Commons was fumigated with sulphur after the

Prince of Wales and Gladstone were among 150 people in the building to contract Russian flu.

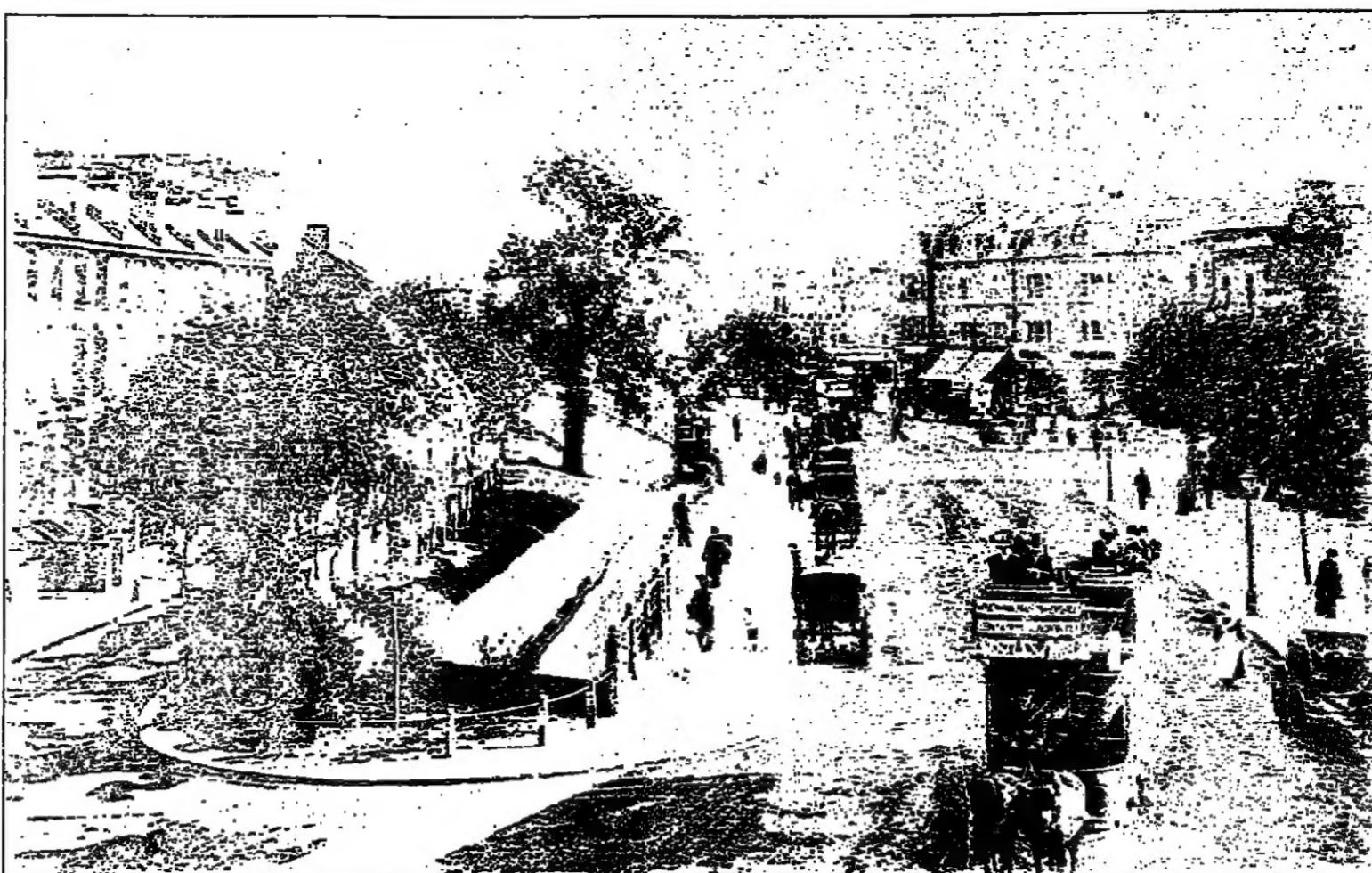
Staff at the Public Record Office traced the entry for Florence Nightingale, then aged 70 and living in South Street, central London, as head of the Nightingale Fund of the Training School for Nurses.

Historians agree that many of the entries are inaccurate, either because of the illiteracy of those being questioned, or the lack of education among the enumerators. Some people wished to conceal illegitimate children, their ethnic origins and overcrowding in their homes. Others were loath to give correct details as they were defying the 1870 Education Act by not sending their children to school. Few people knew their real age and tended to calculate it in multiples of ten.

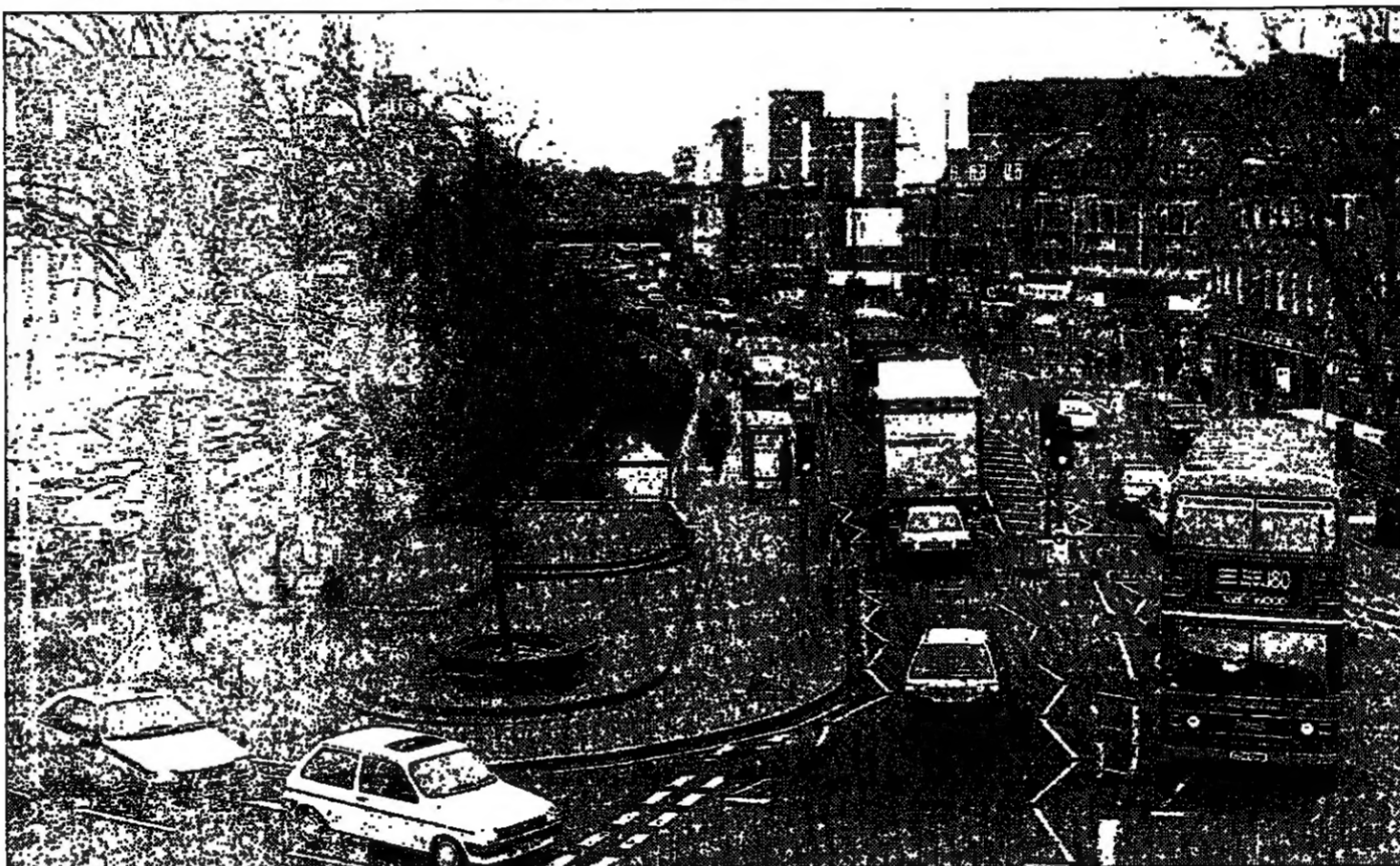
Lord James Douglas fell foul of the authorities for his facetious replies. He was summoned and reprimanded after describing his wife as a "cross sweeper and lunatic" and his son and heir as a "shoe black" born in "darkest Africa". Others fared less well and were fined.

While the questions on the form were limited to address, name, marital status, relationship to the head of the household, age, employment status, place of birth, occupation and whether deaf, blind or insane, the reasons for asking them were limited. The results were to be useful for social planning, but questions about occupations were asked merely for public health purposes since it was believed that illness came from poisoned blood resulting from the materials a person worked with.

The Times, in an editorial on April 3, 1891, two days before the date of the census, complained that in the instructions relating to the category of employment "the case of nearly every employment is provided except one. Evidently the Registrar General considers that literature and journalism are not even callings, let alone professions."



1891: a horse-drawn omnibus makes its way through Lewisham High Street, where census enumerators found clerks in residence



Yesterday: a double-decker bus crawls through the superficially little-changed street, where offices occupy Victorian houses

Clerks' homes are offices a century on

WHERE clerks once lived in southeast London, they now work. A hundred years ago, when census-takers knocked on doors in the terrace of eight houses by the church in Lewisham High Street, they were greeted by civil servants, draper's clerks, ship's stewards, a physician and a florist. And their families. They collected names, ages, occupations, and tallies of who was deaf or blind, and who was an imbecile or an idiot.

Present tenants of the row of chartered surveyors, a firm of accountants, a housing trust, and still a couple of private owners — are not so keen when asked their ages, let alone if they are imbeciles or are harbouring lunatics.

In 1891, the house hard by St Stephen's Church was No 21. Alfred Goodes, a tobacco manufacturer, aged 49, was head of household. He lived with his wife, Kate, 46, and daughter, Ada, 24. Below stairs, lived Alice Hardy, a servant.

At No 19, Frank Barnett, a 28-year-old physician, and his wife, Hannah, had three children. Their servant, Matilda Baulf, was 16.

Today, No 31, the renumbered house nearest the church, is occupied by Stocker & Roberts, chartered surveyors. The two senior partners, equivalent to head of household, are John Gurney and Paul Davis, fiftysomething and fortysomething, respectively. Where born? No idea, says Ethel Cornell, an accountant. Are Gurney and Davis lunatics? "We might think so, but I don't think they would."

At Nos 25 and 27 are Wagstaff, Rowland and Huntley, accountants. Reginald Rowland is the senior partner, married, and 60. Is he an imbecile? "I don't think so," says a receptionist.

At No 23, Diane Patterson, welcomes you to the Beaver Housing Society, which finds homes for the homeless. The director, Barry Sprules, is 40 and married. Any idiots? "Most definitely all of us."

Nos 21 and 19 house the only private dwellers left. They were out, perhaps working in what was someone's home.



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Guide in Yiddish highlights influx of immigrants

INSTRUCTIONS for filling in the census return were printed in Yiddish for the first time to take account of the influx of immigrants escaping persecution in Poland and Russia.

The absence of passports and immigration controls allowed a great movement of people through England, many of whom were bound for the ships leaving Liverpool for the United States. Out of the population of 29,002,525, 198,113 were foreigners. Half of them lived in London, with a further 15,000 or so in Surrey, Kent, Middlesex and Essex, 25,109 in Lancashire and 15,755 in Yorkshire. The mining areas of the North-East had a further 14,908, most of whom worked as merchants and transporters. In London, 23 people out of every 1,000 were classed as foreign, and their principal professions were sailors or merchants, with a high proportion of Russians and Poles among the 14,735 foreign tailors and 2,596 foreign cabinetmakers.

The census records 168,814 as Europeans, but the figure was probably much higher, with people having adopted English names and giving fictitious birth places for fear of being traced. Edward Higgs, a census historian, said that it was common for foreign governments to request information from the Foreign Office about immigrants and, although they were routinely refused, it did not ease the fears of those who wished to remain anonymous.

New questions added for the first time covered employment status, overcrowding and, in Wales, a question about Welsh speaking. However, a large number of people opted to tick each box in the employed, employer or other section, and there were vast numbers of children under one who spoke only Welsh.

Evidence of a mobile population is provided by figures showing a huge growth in suburban areas, with Willesden, northwest London, increasing 122 per cent in ten

The census shows that London was a staging post for thousands of European refugees fleeing to America. Lin Jenkins writes

years, Essex by 51 per cent and Birmingham by 18.9 per cent, compared with the national population increase of 11.7 per cent. Mr Higgs said: "The movement of people in the decade before the census is one of its most remarkable features. It was all done without state pressure or help, but we also see a steady growth of suburbs, with people commuting to work on public transport with a fare system tailored to class. The working man travelled early when fares were cheaper, the clerks a little later when it was more expensive and then the heads of firms who could sweep in later having paid the higher price."

The proportion of blind people fell from one in 979 in 1851 to one in 1,236 and the deaf to one in 1,008 males. The proportion listed as lunatics, imbeciles or idiots was one in 298.

However, the information on the register is so limited that it is of use only to social historians studying a limited geographical area, or those seeking their family history.

Yesterday, Mavis Hillier, of Sidcup, southwest London, was one of the first in the queue, wanting to see the census return of her grandfather John Mills, a coachman. "There is a person my mother used to speak of, who I think was illegitimate, but I am most disappointed to find she is not listed here," she said. "I will keep looking until I find a record of her."

Joyce Martin, of Wembley, northwest London, said: "The whole thing is fascinating and I have found one or two skeletons. I had thought people behaved better in those days, but in fact they were often worse, perhaps because they didn't have television."

Super-fast train shunted into sidings

VISIONS of a high speed rail network from Scandinavia to the Iberian peninsula are unlikely to materialise without a radical overhaul of the structure and outlook of Europe's national rail organisations.

High speed rail technology, together with increased air and road congestion, have presented the railways with an unprecedented opportunity to expand beyond national boundaries, but there are fears that, with their managerial culture rooted in the 19th century, they lack the entrepreneurial flair needed to exploit it.

In January 1989, the Community of European Railways, an organisation made up of the 12 national rail companies of the European Community plus Austria and Switzerland, announced plans for a transcontinental high speed network, linking Europe's chief towns and cities by 2015. The plan envisages the construction or upgrading of about 20,000 miles of line, which would be capable of providing passengers with 200mph services.

In a second report on European transport, Michael Dynes looks at the frustrated dreams of a high-speed rail network

Planners presented the proposals as a means of reversing the ailing fortunes of Europe's railways by enabling them to compete with air and road transport, while at the same time providing a catalyst for economic and regional integration during the 21st century.

However, the entire network is expected to cost somewhere in the region of £100 billion and, apart from the embryonic high speed service between London, Paris and Brussels, there has been little indication that Europe's railways are prepared to embark on the kind of cross-frontier co-operation needed to make the network a reality.

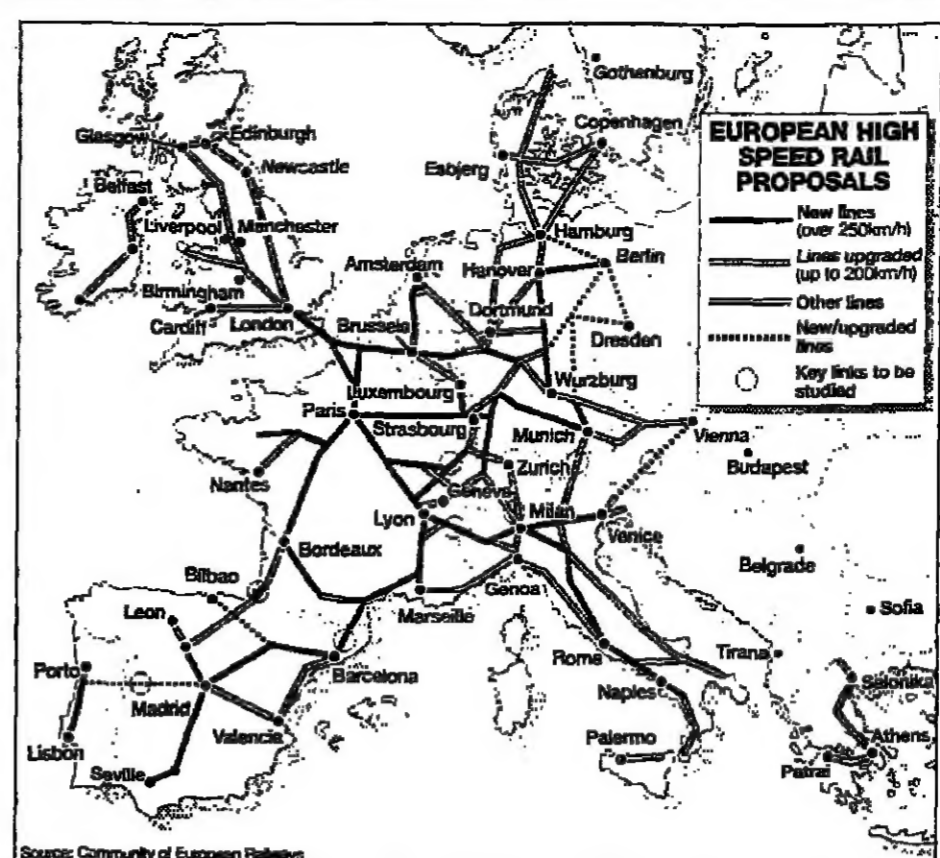
Hitherto, Europe's national rail organisations have been little more than state-controlled bureaucracies, burdened with decades of accumulated debt, with little or



Nowhere fast: the Eurocrats' vision links Copenhagen to Lisbon, but France's high speed trains, left, cannot run on German tracks

no incentive to operate on a commercial basis or market their products through cross-frontier joint ventures.

Although a few national rail organisations have crossed the threshold into the high speed era, they have rarely extended beyond state borders. The French *Train à Grande Vitesse* and the German inter-city express, for example, are incompatible. The



French trains cannot run on German tracks because the power supply is different, while the German trains cannot run on French tracks because they are too heavy.

Attempts by the European Commission to overcome the parochial outlook of the national rail organisations were given a boost in July with the passage of directives designed to promote the development of continent-wide passenger and freight services. From January 1993, the monopoly power of national rail organisations to provide services on their domestic networks will be replaced with a right of access for international joint ventures. As a result, for example, British Rail and Deutsche Bundesbahn will be able to offer services between Manchester and Munich,

Children start crime at age four

Copenhagen: Danish children as young as four have criminal records although they are well under the legal age for prosecution, according to a criminologist's study published yesterday.

Police registered two four-year-olds for vandalism and shoplifting in 1988. *Det fri Aktuelt* newspaper said. In 1989, two five-year-olds were registered for vandalism, two for arson and one for theft. (AP)

Jumbo swap

Delhi: An Indian elephant has set off on a transcontinental voyage to relieve the loneliness of a compatriot in a Honolulu zoo. The Vandaloo zoo received two giraffes in exchange. (AFP)

Safer roads

Sydney: Australia's road accident toll has dropped to its lowest level in 40 years with 2,119 killed in 1991, 210 fewer than in 1990, according to provisional official statistics. (Reuters)

Budding profit

Amsterdam: Exports of Dutch flowers and potplants rose 9.5 per cent to a record value of six billion guilders (£1.9 billion) last year, the flower growers' association said. (Reuters)

Nostalgia hits the highway that tamed a wilderness

AMERICANS and Canadians in the far north are gearing up for a season of nostalgia to mark the 50th anniversary of the building of the Alaska highway. More than 100 special events are planned along the 1,500-mile road which transformed an isolated frontier land of myths and mystery into an adventure-travel playground.

Military historians have questioned the strategic need for ramming a road through a wilderness, all of it in daunting territory and most of it unexplored even by native hunters. But the building of the Alaska highway in just eight months, in 1942, ranks among the great engineering feats of the 20th century.

More than 10,000 soldiers from seven regiments of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, living in tents, worked between March and November in temperatures that reached record lows. Fifty years later, military and civilian veterans of the second world war will return to take part in a series of celebrations, according to the Yukon Anniversaries Commission.

They will be joined by an assortment of thrill-seekers in vintage vehicles and aircraft, mule trains, horse-drawn wagons, dog sleds, snowmobiles, float planes and motor cycles, Ken Spotswood, a commission spokesman, said.

Mr Spotswood said that it was fear of a Japanese invasion after Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941 that drove the United States and Canadian governments to build the highway. The only direct land route from the lower US states to Alaska, it was to connect a chain of airfields stretching from the American prairies to Fairbanks, Alaska. The hardships suffered by the original highway crews were legendary. Moss hogs swallowed bulldozers, floods ripped out bridges and soldiers froze to death. For some northern residents, it was the best of times. Edie

Thomas, aged 81, a former highway camp waitress, said: "Look at all the automobiles we have up here. When I came here, in 1935, there was only two." She recalled fondly the weekly dances with American troops. "I think it was the best thing that ever happened."

For others, it was the worst of times. Scores of Indians died from diseases introduced by the construction workers. In the winter of 1942-43, the native village of Teslin suffered eight successive epidemics of disease, ranging from mumps to meningitis, Ken Coates, history professor at the University of Victoria, said. "Dozens died. Half of the native children in that area under the age of five died in that one year."

Black soldiers comprising three of the US army regiments also suffered terribly, mainly because they were from the south and had never experienced a hard winter, he said.

The United States officially turned over operation and maintenance of the road to the Canadian military in 1946. "The road was only opened to public travel in 1948 and even then it was rough, unreliable and subject to frequent closures," Mr Coates said.

Reconstruction started in the mid-1960s. The road now is paved along virtually all its length. Stickers declaring "I survived the Alaska highway", which were once common, are now collectors' items. (Reuters)

New words ram-raid linguistic showcase

POLITICAL correctness, date rape, ram-raiding and stock-lending are among the new terms from 1991 which have been gathered by the compilers of the Oxford English Dictionary.

The Gulf war helped to Americanise the language last year. According to the Queen's English Society, this year it may be further Europeanised.

John Simpson, co-editor of the OED, said: "Changes from the US were in the area of pronunciation as well as word use. During the Gulf war, British broadcasters started off by pronouncing the first syllable of Kuwait 'kew'. The Americans on CNN pronounced it 'Koo-wait', which is nearer the Arab pronunciation. At the end of the war we were using the American pronunciation. 'The Gulf war caused a small explosion in our use of the English language, the ef-

fects of which are gradually dying away now."

Recognition of the term "stock-lending", the short-term loan of stock between accounts, is part of the fall-out from the Maxwell saga. Date rape and acquaintance rape were further imports from America.

This year is likely to be an interesting one for the language as it is exposed more and more to the Brussels babel, Godfrey Talbot, president of the Queen's English Society, said. "As we become more used to hearing other European languages and increasingly have to work with the European Community, we may adopt small, useful words from other European languages. Certainly there will be increasing victories of the litte over the gallon in common usage. I am all for the inclusion in our mother tongue of words that break down barriers."

Sagan is voted cleverest person

Carl Sagan, the astronomer, is the cleverest person in the United States, according to a vote by readers of *Parade* magazine. Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf war hero, was second on the list, followed by William F Buckley, the columnist, Bill Moyers, the television newsman, President Bush and Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate.

Stan Davies, the local bobby who achieved renown when he arrested two gang members from the 1963 great train robbery, has died aged 72 at his home in Bournemouth.

Haile Selassie's palace in Ethiopia's autonomous province of Eritrea has become a museum, the Voice of Eritrea radio reported. The late Ethiopian emperor's palace will be preserved with all its assets, it said.

Richard Nixon has produced another book. *Seize the moment: America's challenge in a one super-power world* will be released officially on Monday. It suggests courses for peace and prosperity in the aftermath of the Cold War.

Charlotte Hughes, at 114 Britain's oldest person and believed to be the second oldest person in the world, has left her cottage in Marske, Cleveland, where she has lived for 70 years.

Ian Botham, the cricket star, was forced to hire a private plane to get back to his pantomime after he was prevented from boarding his flight from Alderney to Eastleigh airport. Mr Botham arrived five minutes before departure time.

Chinese girls sold to brothels

PROSTITUTION rings in Southeast Asia and Taiwan are buying hundreds of Chinese girls, some as young as 15, from border areas and forcing them to work in brothels, an official Chinese newspaper reported yesterday.

Most of the girls were abducted from Simao prefecture in China's southwestern Yunnan province. The slavery trade was moving inland despite action against it, the *Yunnan Legal News* reported.

Foreign prostitution rings, working in collusion with Chinese gangs, first lured the girls to Burma with promises that they would be provided with jobs, introduced to a husband or taken on a tour. From Burma, they were transported to Thailand, where they were sold to brothels in Bangkok, and in Malaysia, Taiwan and other countries, the newspaper said. (AFP)

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Yeltsin applies shock therapy to revive Mother Russia



Khrushchev: tried to tinkering with the system

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's great leap forward into the free market with a price revolution may be too late for Russia. The transport sector is already damaged: the railways are about to grind to a halt; the country is without goods and is suffering from shortages of food and manpower.

For seven decades, the Soviet economy was subjected to deadweight central planning which was at best clumsy and at worst murderous in its execution. Now the Russians have come full circle: a rich country made poor by its rulers.

Before the first world war Russia was a poor agricultural country with small pockets of modern industry. According to the economist Aleksei Izumov, it none the less had a real chance of breaking into the modern world. Russian farmers supplied one-third of the world grain market and some industries were outpacing those of some big European

Russia rejoins the brave old world of capitalism with the dead weight of 74 years of Bolshevik mismanagement. Roger Boyes assesses its chances

an countries. But within two days of the 1917 October revolution the Bolsheviks had confiscated the big estates and nationalised the banks. When civil war broke out in the summer of 1918 armed workers seized grain from the peasants to feed the cities and the army. Big factories were nationalised and work discipline was enforced with very harsh measures. This "war communism" allowed the Red Army to win the civil war but it destroyed the economy.

The Kronstadt rebellion in March 1921 persuaded Lenin to change economic course if only to gain a "breathing space" for the revolution. The New Economic Policy (NEP) permitted some private markets and trading and, above all, gave more

freedom to farmers. Banks, heavy industry, transport, foreign trade and planning were, however, firmly under state control. This limited dose of capitalism produced some astonishingly quick results but it also created many social frictions between the new rich and the impoverished workers. These tensions gave Stalin his chance to swing the pendulum back. In April 1928 the Communist party gave birth to its first five-year plan, and its first big purge. By November of that year, the collectivisation of agriculture was announced and in December the NEP was buried.

Forced collectivisation caused terrible misery, killing millions directly and more through starvation. Soviet

agriculture never really recovered from the shocks of the 1930s. Now have reformers been able to devise a way of boosting food production within the constraints of the collective system. Forced industrialisation accompanied the savage destruction of farming communities.

Nikita Khrushchev tried to adjust the economic machine after Stalin's death. Collective farmers were given higher payments, factories were given greater freedom and some serious industrial and scientific research was begun. Food production jumped, real income was higher in the 1950s than at any time since 1929. But soon enough Khrushchev was swallowed up by the madness of the system. The Soviet Union was required to overtake America. Since this was impossible, more and more lies were fed into the planning machine.

Aleksei Kosygin, prime minister under Leonid Brezhnev, was convinced by the logic of the reforming econo-

mist, Yevsei Liberman. The point of his 1964-1965 reforms was to introduce the profit motive in Soviet factories without fundamentally changing the structure of the economy. Plan targets were drafted according to the number of goods sold rather than produced and some of the factory revenue could be retained by the managers to pay bonuses to workers. The reforms were doomed to fail. Since prices were centrally fixed, the term "profit" had little meaning. The only real effect of these reforms was to boost worker earnings. Since state shops could not offer enough goods to satisfy these inflated earnings, the black market boomed.

One of Kosygin's advisers, Abel Aganbegyan, later emerged as a key figure in the

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Gorbachev reforms. But Professor Aganbegyan and the Novosibirsk reform group, which emerged after 1983, erred on the side of caution. For many years Professor Aganbegyan, and Mr Gorbachev under his influence, insisted that there could be no free labour market in the Soviet Union. The intellectual and ideological struggle to find a "third way", a form of reform socialism, squandered many years and many opportunities. As late as October 1990, when Stanislav Shatalin proposed a 500-day big bang route to the market, President Gorbachev still balked at the idea of mass unemployment and the closing down of unprofitable factories.

Now, in the view of many Polish economists who have been pushing through a radical market programme of their own for two years, it may be too late for mere shock therapy. Shock surgery is needed — and it is not at all clear who holds the scalpel.

KEY DATES IN SOVIET ECONOMIC HISTORY	
1917	Bolshevik revolution war communism — food deposits confiscated, factories nationalised
1921	New Economic Policy — the Soviet Union tries a dose of capitalism
1928	Stalin abandons NEP, first five year plan
1929	forced collectivisation, industrialisation
1934-1946	war years
1953	Stalin dies
1956	Khrushchev attempts reforms, crash building programme, rewards farmers, launch of Sputnik
1957	Kosygin reforms try to introduce profit motive in Soviet factories
1964/65	Brezhnev dies, Novosibirsk group issues blueprint for economic change
1985	Gorbachev comes to power, relaxes reins, more freedom for factories
1990	Shatalin plan proposes a 500-day shock therapy shift to market

Price rises fail to cause Moscow riots

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

YESTERDAY'S price rises did not after all provoke street riots. But they did cause discontent in grim suburban settlements such as Lyubertsy, the sort of place where they pump iron in basements after work, or instead of work, use chains to tie down speculators who renege on deals and then send pieces of their ears to relatives through the post.

The former KGB found it a happy recruiting ground for mindless toughs — where a few bottles of vodka went a long way. Yesterday, however, Lyubertsy was quiet. Its factories were mostly closed. The combined shortage of raw materials, spare parts and zeal for work has closed much of Moscow's industry until after the Russian Christmas on January 7. People seemed still to be sleeping off the new year.

The shops, such as they are, were open, but looked closed. Few people had ventured into the driving snow, still fewer bothered to look inside the shops. Four and even tenfold rises in price do not mean much in Lyubertsy because ten times nothing is still nothing.

A large food store on the main street offered two sorts of sausage at 72 (9 at last November's official tourist rate) and 108 rubles a kilo, a little less or more than the average weekly wage. "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to buy a whole kilo," lamented an elderly man, walking with a stick. But that possibility — even with his newly increased pension of 280 rubles a month — was remote.

There was one sort of plain biscuit and dozens of squashed-looking cakes with icing at 20 rubles each, almost twice as expensive as they used to be. Nobody was buying. A large, but orderly queue lined up for lemons — at eight rubles a kilo they were several times cheaper than at the peasants' markets — and battered mandarin oranges at 17 rubles. There was no meat, although some was expected, and macaroni was on sale, but only for ration coupons.

Large packets of oats, not rationed, attracted no inter-

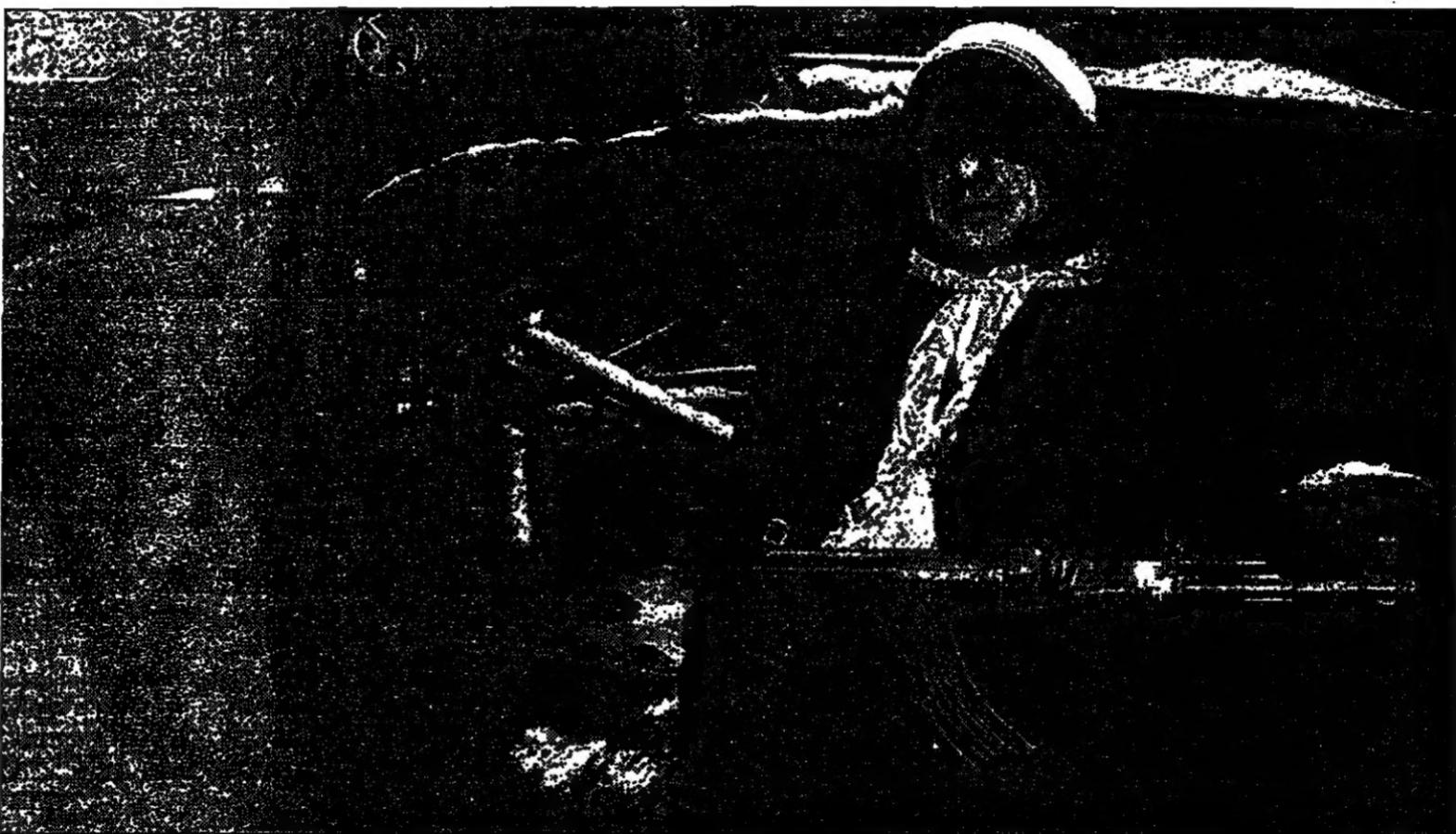
est. A bakery had one sort of rye bread and a large notice saying "loaf — 1.56 rubles; half a loaf 78 kopecks; quarter — 39 kopecks", four times as expensive as before. There was a stream of customers, but no queue. Lyubertsy had not seen the panic-buying of bread on New Year's eve that was seen in central Moscow. They had dried their rucks in anticipation of the hard winter months ago.

The milk shop was open, and selling milk — but only milk. No yoghurt, no cheese, and no bottles. The sickly smell of fresh milk penetrated the tiny premises, where people lined up with their pails. The portly assistant — wrapped in fur hat, quilted jacket and felt boots — ladled the milk out of churns into whatever vessel they had brought. The handwritten notice said 1.30 rubles, three times what it had been two days before, but tolerable. There was milk in the shop in Lyubertsy, which was more than can be said for central Moscow.

Central Moscow, too, was quiet yesterday. A few shops were able to offer their customers something to make their journey and the new prices worthwhile. At Yeliseyev's, once the "top people's store", there was feta cheese at nine rubles a kilo. Sweets were on sale, without the need to present sugar ration coupons in return, for the first time in a year. Pensioners shook their heads at the prices, though the queue stretched the length of the shop. Even alcohol had made a celebrity reappearance on the shelves of state shops, with vodka at 28 rubles for half a litre, dry wine (not seen for several years) at 40 rubles and Russian champagne for 120 rubles.

Shoppers mostly took the new prices with resignation, and for Muscovites the real changes were few. Meat, frozen chickens, smoked salami and caviar had long been available only at "negotiated" or "commercial" prices. Only the hope of catching something at the state-subsidised price had gone.

Price free-for-all, page 1
Letters, page 11



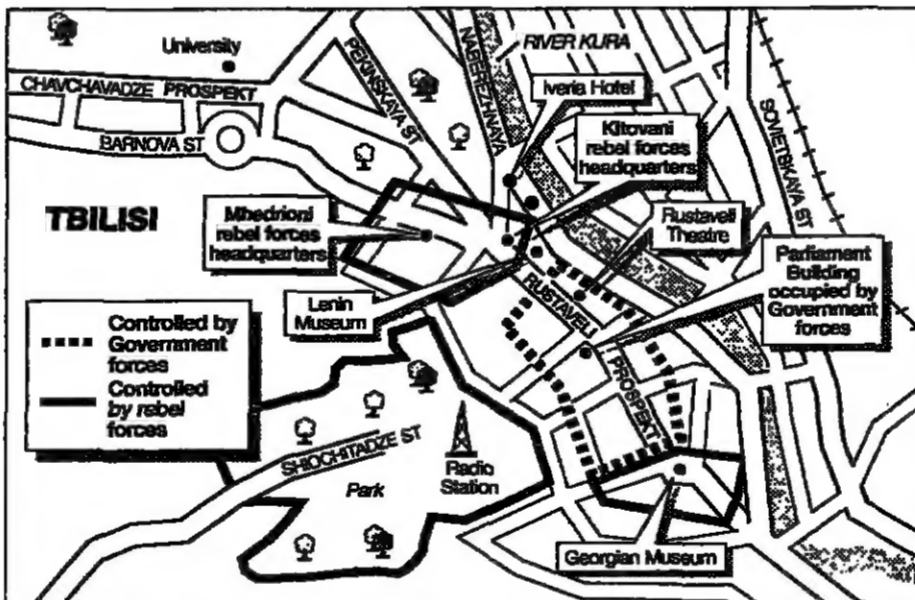
On patrol: a gunman loyal to President Gamsakhurdia of Georgia outside the parliament in Tbilisi, besieged for 11 days

Georgia rebels appoint new leadership

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

THE chiefs of the ill-assorted coalition of forces confronting the Georgian government said last night it had removed President Gamsakhurdia from power and appointed a new provisional leadership to exercise power. The military council, headed by leaders of the forces opposed to the republican president, also declared a state of emergency. But Mr Gamsakhurdia and his supporters remained under siege in the parliament, which, like other former Soviet buildings, was designed as a nuclear bunker.

Georgian television reported that a curfew from 11pm until 6am would come into effect in Tbilisi last night. The report said the "interim government" would be headed by Tengiz Sigua, the former prime minister. Tbilisi would be under the command of Georgia's Kharkavashvili, the leader of the White Eagles, one of the rebel groups fighting the government forces. The military council is headed by Jaba Ioseliani, leader of the Mhedriani militia, and Tengiz Klotiani, leader of the national guard troops fighting Mr Gamsakhurdia's forces. Mr Ioseliani, signalling a possible change of tactic, said it was no longer important whether or not the building in which the Georgian president is holed up would be stormed militarily. "That question has no significance — perhaps we will make the building into a prison," said the guerrilla leader, who was himself sprung from jail a few days ago.



Political leaders in the opposition said privately they were unhappy about the idea of the military council becoming the provisional government. But they might have no choice but to recognise their ally Mr Sigua as Georgia's premier. Much of Tbilisi is already under rebel control.

Earlier Gia Chanturia, one of the most prominent figures in the political opposition, said that the Georgian parliament should be given full powers to run the country ahead of fresh elections. Despite the inclusion of the two main strands in the military coalition opposed to the Georgian president, it was by no means certain that the newly created council of war would avert the danger of internecine fighting among the anti-government forces if the president is removed.

The new body does not include the guerrilla groups which have rallied to the rebel coalition most recently, and

whose loyalties are thought to be uncertain. The statement by Mr Ioseliani that might no longer be necessary to seize parliament may be a sign that such an operation would be impossible without massive loss of life.

Reporters who managed to get through to the embattled parliament where the president is sheltering in the reinforced basement were met a Gamsakhurdia aide who said defiantly: "We must sweep these swine away. We will not talk with bandits, plunderers and criminals."

"In two days we will finish them," added a guard sitting nearby with a Kalashnikov rifle resting on his knees. Young men, many little more than teenagers, lounge on makeshift beds or patrol darkened corridors. Guards pointed with pride to huge gashes in the marble walls inflicted by heavy machine guns and rebel rocket fire.

The opposition meanwhile was reveling in its control of the television airwaves, from which the Georgian leader had virtually banned them when he was fully in control. The republic's viewers were presented for the first time with the rebels' case for the ouster of the controversial nationalist leader.

Soviet army bows out

Moscow: Today will mark the beginning of the end of the 4 million-strong Soviet army as a single fighting force. Unless there is last-minute resistance or change of plan, most units in Ukraine are to be redesignated Ukrainian troops, leaving only the republic's nuclear weapons under central control (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The transfer will apply to all former Soviet troops on Ukrainian territory, including sailors with the Black Sea Fleet. They will be transferred to the command of Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, and the Ukrainian defence ministry. The only troops remaining under central command — answering to Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the commonwealth commander — will be strategic nuclear forces deployed in the republic.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian defence ministry said a list of units to be defined as "strategic nuclear forces" will be compiled by a working group that will arrive in Kiev today. "The composition of this force will be minimal and will be proportionally reduced as the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory are reduced."

Summit sought

London: Britain is trying to arrange a summit of United Nations Security Council leaders to discuss world issues and the council's priorities with Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new UN secretary-general.

Foreign berths

Moscow: Russia has opened the strategic Siberian port of Vladivostok to foreign ships for the first time in more than 30 years. Radio Moscow reported, saying that a Vietnamese ship had docked there. (AFP)

Markov claim

Sofia: General Stoyan Savov, a former Bulgarian deputy minister, and General Viado Todorov, a former spy-master, are to be charged with murdering Georgy Markov, the writer, in London in 1978, a newspaper claims. (AFP)

Amnesty award

Stockholm: Amnesty International has been awarded the 1991 Olof Palme prize by a Swedish committee in recognition of the organisation's "patient and devoted work to stand up for human rights in the world". (AP)

Prince held

Copenhagen: Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark was detained by police here after a woman he was out with was arrested on charges of drunk driving and not having a driver's licence, newspapers reported. (AFP)

Drugs warning

Warsaw: Poland, where drug possession is not illegal, is becoming a leading producer of illicit amphetamines, accounting for 14 per cent of the world market, police say, with an estimated 500 clandestine laboratories. (AFP)

Nuns' prayers

Calcutta: Nuns and residents at the headquarters here of the Missionaries of Charity said day-long prayers for the recovery of Mother Teresa in California from bacterial pneumonia and a heart complaint. (Reuters)

Germany opens Stasi files

FROM REUTER IN BERLIN

FORMER East German dissidents finally got to see files on themselves yesterday which were compiled by the Stasi, the defunct communist security police. The first people to gain access to their Stasi files under a law which came into force on January 1 said they were amazed at the sheer volume of material.

Gerd Poppe, a civil rights activist, said he and his wife, Ulrike, had been shown 50 volumes of up to 300 typed pages each detailing the close watch kept on them. "The whole scale is almost unimaginable, even for people who knew how intensively they were being spied on," Mr Poppe told a news conference at the Berlin headquarters of the government agency responsible for the files.

"We found letters which we never received. They are now in the files. Photos, transcripts of tapped telephone calls, reports on the installation of microphones and bugs



Open secrets: Rainer Eppelmann, a former East German dissident, finds out who spied on him

... The Poppes were leading lights in the dissident movement which helped force the communists from power in 1989. Vera Wollenberger, who was expelled from former East Germany in 1988

and is now a member of parliament in Bonn, learned recently from a dossier leaked to a newspaper that her husband had been a Stasi informer. Looking pale and shaken after several hours

reading her files, she declined to answer questions about her husband. "I had already learned the worst beforehand, the worst surprise was behind me," she said. "These files are a quite dangerous mixture of fiction and truth. Everybody who wants to look in the files must be aware that nasty surprises might be waiting in them."

The new law allows individuals to see their own files, but limits access by police, intelligence agencies and journalists. People will not be allowed to remove files, but will be able to have copies made of documents.

An intelligence service and secret police rolled into one, the Stasi amassed files covering 125 miles of shelves. The information, often deeply personal, was collected by 85,000 full-time agents and hundreds of thousands of informers.

More than 3,000 application forms for information were issued in Berlin alone yesterday.

Vance begins talks on UN force with military leaders

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

CYRUS Vance, the United Nations special envoy to Yugoslavia, began crucial talks in Sarajevo yesterday afternoon with senior Yugoslav and Croat military men after securing the agreement from their political masters on the deployment of a 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force for Croatia. "The situation is radically changed since I came," said Mr Vance before leaving for the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Vance met Alija Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who announced that a "cessation of hostilities" in Croatia had been called for noon today. He also said that they had discussed the sending of UN monitors to Bosnia-Herzegovina where tension is high between the republic's Muslims, Croats and Serbs and has been threatening to ex-

plode. Despite the political agreement, Mr Vance has insisted that he will not recommend the sending of a peacekeeping force until a proper ceasefire comes into effect. Yesterday sporadic clashes were reported to be continuing and Croatian radio reported that Yugoslav air force jets had bombed the town of Daruvar, 60 miles east of Zagreb in the early hours of the morning.

The breakthrough came, according to sources close to Mr Vance, after Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, and General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister, assured him that the recalcitrant local leadership in Serbian areas of Croatia had been brought into line and would not oppose UN troops. Previously the leaders of what they have now proclaimed the Serbian Re-

public of Krajina had declared that UN troops would be regarded as "occupiers" and physically resisted.

There was no official reaction from Krajina leaders yesterday and even if they have given their consent to a UN force there can be no guarantee that parts of their militias, or Belgrade-based extreme nationalists, will stop fighting. There is also no guarantee that Croatian ultra-nationalist groups can be coerced into laying down their arms until the third of their republic now outside Zagreb's control is retaken.

If Croat and Serbian leaders succeed in stopping the fighting, then the UN plan envisages the dispatch of 10,000 troops and 500 policemen to three areas of Croatia.

Leading article, page 11

Algerian elections

Marchers attack Islamic victory

By Philip Jacobson in Paris and Our Foreign Staff

TENS of thousands of people converged on Algiers from all parts of the country yesterday for a rally to protest against the victory of Islamic fundamentalist candidates after the first round of voting in the Algerian general election last week.

Police estimates put the figure at 153,000 as the marchers — led by Hocine Ait Ahmed, one of Algeria's foremost opposition leaders — wound their way through the city. Many were women, who stand to lose the freedoms they gained during and after the war of independence from France of an Islamic state is declared. Under the banner of "the national salvation committee", secular opposition parties, trade unions and a variety of other organisations were marching to demand action against "the enemies of democracy". Security forces were said to have been placed on high alert amid rumours that the Algerian army was poised to intervene to prevent the fundamentalists coming to power.

The Islamic Salvation Front, the fundamentalist grouping, captured 188 parliamentary seats in the first round of Algeria's first multi-party elections on Boxing day and could well win an absolute majority in the second round on January 16.

However, fresh elections for many of the seats won by the fundamentalists may have to be held because of complaints of ballot-rigging and other irregularities in 140 constituencies. Some observers in Algiers reported yesterday that President Chadli Benjedid was coming under mounting pressure to cancel the second

round of voting. A stream of visitors to President Chadli's headquarters has emphasised the implications for Algeria of allowing the front to form a government or even to establish a fundamentalist foothold in a government.

There is a growing conviction that the Algerian military, despite being separated from the government and returned to barracks under the 1989 constitution, would refuse to accept a fundamentalist victory. The disclosure that Morocco and Tunisia have now closed their borders with Algeria ahead of the second round of voting in two weeks' time has heightened fears of an Islamic thrust for power and shows the unease felt by the governments of both countries that their own banned Islamic organisations could take heart from the Algerian election results and cause them serious trouble.

The front is deeply hostile to the armed forces after the killing by soldiers of hundreds of its followers in riots in 1988 and the severe repression it suffered last June when it demonstrated against the electoral voting system. Several people were killed as the army restored order and Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, its two leaders, were arrested and are still held in army prisons. Elections due to be held that month were postponed until December.

Said Saadi, one of the leaders of the secular opposition parties, has given a warning that an Islamic victory in the second round "will bury Algeria and condemn us to chaos". His call for a general strike has been backed by the national salvation committee,

which appears to enjoy significant support from the ruling National Liberation Front which presided over a one-party state for 30 years.

"The ostensible aim of yesterday's rally in Algiers was to block the path of all totalitarian forces and reject the fundamentalist state".

The military has given details of violent incidents that allegedly occurred in the run-up to the first round of voting on Boxing day, including an attack on security forces by Islamic fundamentalist groups. Several people are reported to have been killed.

Ferocious reprisals are reported to have been taken against Islamic "commandos" involved in such attacks. While the Islamic front has urged Algerians not to yield to provocation, there is hope in liberation front circles that the next round of voting could swing the final result against the Islamic front. As many as 5 million voters — more than 40 per cent of the electorate — abstained in the first round, and a heavy turnout from liberation front and other secular opposition party supporters in the second round could still swing the final result.

Under the constitution, President Chadli is on record as promising that no military dictatorship will be imposed upon Algeria. Most observers believe that even with a victory by the Islamic front, the president will retain control of defence and foreign policy no matter who wins and forms a government. On the other hand, he could impose a state of siege to prevent the fundamentalists from coming to power.



Old friends: President Bush and Bob Hawke, former Australian prime minister, embracing yesterday

Bush fosters links

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

PRESIDENT Bush pledged yesterday that the United States would not close the door to trade with Asia-Pacific countries despite a confrontation expected in Tokyo next week over continuing Japanese trade restrictions.

Before leaving Australia today for the most contentious part of his Asia-Pacific tour, Mr Bush was invited to make the first address by any foreign leader to a joint sitting of Australia's federal parliament. He assured members that American defence commitments to the region would be maintained despite the end of the Cold War. Mr Bush's four-day visit has been dogged by the issue of American farm subsidies, which have cost Australian farmers traditional export markets.

As expected, however, Mr Bush would not give ground to demands by Paul Keating, the prime minister, and angry farmers that he abolish the subsidies.

John Hewson, the opposition leader and a great supporter of the United States, said that Mr Bush's stand had turned some Australians against America. "People for the first time are starting to question the value of the alliance [with the US]," he said.

The presidential entourage of three Boeing 747s leaves Australia today for a three-day visit to Singapore before flying to Japan and South Korea. Asked yesterday about possible retaliation against Japanese trade restrictions, Mr Bush answered testily: "I cannot go into hypotheticals. We haven't gotten to Japan yet."

Canberra: President Bush yesterday dismissed the Oliver Stone film, JFK, which implicates the US military and the CIA in the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963. He said that he had seen no evidence of a conspiracy. (Reuter)

President braces for 'hell of year' in politics

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE holiday season is over. The 1992 presidential campaign now begins in earnest. In Australia this week, President Bush gave thanks for his strong family. "Keep it strong, Lord," he said, "because we're going into a hell of a year. It's politics from now on, and it isn't very pleasant."

Just a few months ago the election promised to be one of the dullest on record. Mr Bush's return to the White House almost a formality. Not any longer. It is now seen as one that could change America's course. The Cold War is over. The economy has turned more sour than anyone foresaw. Mr Bush's popularity has halved. Perhaps the single most fundamental issue will be the extent to which the world's only superpower heeds the siren call of isolationism and protectionism as

a panacea for its economic woes.

The potents are not promising. No candidate except possibly Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator who portrays himself as an "economic Paul Revere", appears willing to face squarely such unpalatable truths about America's economic decline as the crippling national debt and lack of investment. Most rush to espouse popular short-term palliatives like middle-class tax cuts. Even Mr Bush is succumbing to naked political expediency.

In Australia he refused to abandon protectionist trade policies that help American farmers, arguing that "no-body's pure". But in Tokyo next week he will call for the dismantling of Japan's trade barriers and suggest that they, not America's lack of

competitiveness, are the real cause of his country's \$41 billion (\$21.9 billion) trade deficit with Japan.

Unusually, it is the Republicans who define the parameters of the debate. Despite his public backsliding, Mr Bush remains at heart a champion of free trade and American world leadership. He wants cautious post-Cold War military retrenchment and level economic playing fields. By contrast Pat Buchanan, his demagogic Republican challenger, demands a militant new American economic nationalism, the repatriation of all American troops stationed abroad and an end to all foreign aid. Between these two poles stand six Democratic candidates, half of whom have adopted "America first" platforms.

The battle looks like being one of the shortest on record. Mr Tsongas, excepted, no Democrat entered the race until mid-September. The season begins with the Iowa caucus in 39 days. In just 37 frantic days 28 states will choose more than half the delegates who select the nominees. The Iowa caucus should be a walkover for Tom Harkin, who is the state's senator, making the February 18 New Hampshire primary more critical than ever. Because the Democrats are so little known and short of funds, this primary alone could make or break them.

Mr Buchanan is expected to do well enough to embarrass, but not defeat Mr Bush in New Hampshire, a state suffering as badly from the recession as any in the country. The White House is rapidly diverting federal grants to New Hampshire and plans to have half the cabinet, as well as Mr Bush and Dan Quayle, the Vice-President, camping there for the next month. Mr Bush will use his State of the Union speech later this month to unveil plans for an economic recovery package.

India poison drink toll climbs to 98

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN BOMBAY

THE death toll in a New Year's eve liquor tragedy neared 100 yesterday as doctors in Bombay fought to save nearly three dozen people still in hospital with severe alcohol poisoning after drinking a brew sold by a government-licensed bar.

The official toll from Tuesday night's revelry in the western Indian port city rose by 14 to 98. But police said they believed that the actual toll was much higher, as many deaths at home may have gone unreported by relatives reluctant to get involved in criminal investigations.

Doctors said 33 of the 45 people still in hospital were on the critical list after drinking liquor served by the Chaya bar on Forster Street, central Bombay, or buying bottles to drink at home. Thirteen were

admitted yesterday with muscle spasms, stomach cramps and impaired vision which doctors attribute to methyl alcohol poisoning. Methyl alcohol was apparently mixed with the liquor to give it a greater intoxicating effect. A bottle cost 18 rupees (about 50 pence) and a glass just two rupees.

The bar was closed down by police who seized its stocks. The supplier of the alcohol was arrested on Wednesday, after the arrest of the bar owner, the manager and two employees. Forensic experts were analysing samples of the brew.

In November, about 200 people died and dozens were blinded in Delhi after drinking a cheap alcohol-based tonic to celebrate a Hindu festival.

Kenyan forms new party

Nairobi: A Kenyan politician who resigned from President Moi's cabinet last week has announced the formation of an opposition party, the Kenyan media reported.

The Daily Nation newspaper yesterday quoted Mwai Kibaki, the former health minister, as saying that his Democratic party would work with any opposition party to defeat the ruling Kenya African National Union (Kanu). "Our new party is committed to working with all democratic forces to remove the present Kanu government," he said.

A number of political leaders have announced plans to form opposition parties since parliament voted for a multi-party system last month. The first multiparty elections since 1966 are expected to be held this year.

Mr Kibaki has denied allegations by the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, the main opposition party, that he was trying to divide electoral support to form a coalition government with Mr Moi. "There is absolutely no deal and no connection between us and the government of Kanu or President Moi," he said. (Reuter)

Changing rule

Lagos: Elected state governors took over from military officers at the start of a crucial period of power-sharing in Africa's most populous country. The government has promised to return to civilian rule by next year. (Reuter)

Grave matter



Cairo: One of the finest statues ever discovered in the Pyramids area, this small limestone figure of an overseer who lived 4,400 years ago was found in a cemetery for the foremen and craftsmen who built the monuments for the pharaohs. (AP)

Talks on pact

New York: Salvadorean government and rebel representatives will meet in New York on Sunday to begin negotiations on unresolved details of the peace pact they signed on New Year's eve, diplomatic sources said. (AFP)

Blasts theory

Johannesburg: Right-wing extremists are suspected of causing explosions which wrecked two South African post offices and partly demolished a school which is due to admit black pupils for the first time on Monday.

Ramos to run

Manila: The former Philippines defence secretary, General Fidel Ramos, aged 63, who saved President Aquino from six coup attempts, said he is running in the May election and launched a People Power party.

Prison press

Paris: More than 100 journalists are in prison around the world, a quarter of them in China, according to figures published by Reporters sans Frontières, a French organisation. At least 65 were killed, most in Yugoslavia. (Reuter)

Smoke alarm

Nicosia: A legislative impasse has blocked an anti-smoking bill in Iran. The Iranian news agency, Irna, said that the Guardian Council vetoed the bill because it did not envisage substitute sources of revenue for the tax lost. (Reuter)

Saddam's enemies conspire

FROM MICHAEL TROUDOUROU IN NICOSIA

A POWERFUL car bomb blast in a smart suburb of Baghdad on Monday has fuelled rumours sweeping Iraq of bloody infighting among President Saddam Hussein's family, coup plots, and imminent uprisings.

Saddam's enemies say a crime wave, low morale in the armed forces and United Nations sanctions are also weakening his grip on power. Large parts of northern Iraq have been out of his control for months, in the hands of Kurdish rebels who are planning their own free elections.

Security forces have clamped down in all key cities, and in recent weeks Saddam has invited opposition figures several times to try their luck in a coup, joking that they are not up to seizing power. "This is just nervous laughter," said Saad Jabr, leader of the Free Iraq Council.

Mr Jabr is one of several opposition figures — including Kurds, Shiites, Sunnis, and disaffected Baathists — gathering in Damascus today to plan a joint strategy to topple Saddam. They hope to exploit what they believe is a conjunction of stars that bodes ill for the Iraqi leader. "We are ready for a co-ordinated uprising across the country, but we don't want a revolt until we are certain the Iraqi army is with us. Then we'll strike," said Dr Haidar Abbas of the al-Dawa party, the Shia opposition group.

But some analysts believe the opposition groups do not pose a viable threat because they are too fragmented, too dependent on other countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and have not won vital Western backing. The Kurdish rebel leadership is divided down the middle, and there are reports that differences between Islamic groups backed by Iran and secular groups supported by Syria have derailed plans for a full-blown opposition conference in the near future. "Saddam is weak, but the opposition is weaker," said an Iraqi academic who lives abroad.

Baghdad: A Kurdish delegation sent to the Iraqi capital to discuss the government's blockade of the north appears to be making its departure, a United Nations source said. Baghdad imposed the blockade two months ago, choking food and fuel supplies and freezing salaries in an attempt to pressure the Kurds into accepting an autonomy agreement. Aid officials say the blockade has eased. (Reuter)

Settlers gain in Israeli budget

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli parliament was poised yesterday to approve hundreds of millions of pounds in state funds for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories after the coalition government passed this year's controversial budget.

After a two-day delay caused by last-minute lobbying for additional funding by religious parties, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, has once again held his fragile government together and avoided the need for early elections. However, the price of domestic harmony with his coalition partners could cost the Israeli government dear in international affairs. In particular, the government's decision to approve huge funds for housing, roads and general infrastructure for Jewish settlers in the occupied territories will do little to help the Middle East peace talks when they resume next week in Washington.

Although no exact figure is available for the settlement funding in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 110,000 Jews and 1.7 million Palestinians, political sources said that state money has been set aside in the budgets of nearly every important ministry and department to help expand Jewish communities in the areas where Palestinians want to create a state.

Out of the £20 billion budget, two-thirds of all the 7,500 new housing units,

costing a total of more than £200 million, have been earmarked for the occupied territories, not including special funding for the purchase of Palestinian property in Arab east Jerusalem.

Although the funding is no surprise in a government which refuses to relinquish any occupied territory, it is



Shamir: paying high price for domestic harmony

likely to cause Israel serious problems in Washington later this month when Congress is due to consider an Israeli request for \$10 billion (£3 billion) for loan guarantees.

The current budget has already included the £500 million for this year, even though congressional approval has not been assured, and President Bush has shown that he opposes helping Israel's economy while it subsidises the settlement drive, regarded by the White House as the biggest obstacle to peace in the region.

Lean times in meat trade drive gauchos to pastures new

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

JUAN Carlos Maranon and his troop of gauchos worked hard, herding more than 60,000 head of cattle into Argentina's biggest auction market in Buenos Aires in a week. As the breeds, including Aberdeen Angus bulls and pure-bred short horn heifers, arrived in trucks from the provinces to the capital, gauchos on the picaresque horses drove them into dozens of rings.

However, Argentinians are quick to dispel their well-known gaucho image of the Latin cowboy riding through the pampas as belonging to the past. Increasingly so, as the country's cattle breeding and meat production industry is in decline. The modern day gaucho, who often swaps his horse for a truck to drive to markets and his baggy jodhpurs for a pair of jeans, is no longer tied to a

landowner but is an hourly paid worker belonging to a trade union, is finding it hardgoing in a shrinking job market.

Juan Maranon, aged 66, who has worked on a ranch in the north all his life and is one of the few traditional gauchos left, said: "We are slowly dying out and few of our sons are willing to follow our footsteps. It was a way of life carried on through in the family. Only a handful of us can still lead a gaucho life. The rest just dress up in the traditional clothes and pose for tourists in restaurants."

There has been a 20 per cent drop in meat exports over the past year, according to Argentina's leading cattlebreeder and landowner, Carlos Gomez Alzaga. Therefore cattle breeding is becoming less profitable and almost all traditional

cattle ranches in the Buenos Aires province have swapped to more cost effective cereal production. Argentinians are the world's biggest



meat eaters but their 33 million population is not a big enough market and the meat industry relies heavily on exports. "We have suffered badly from the subsidies for

EC producers as Europe was our biggest market," said Señor Alzaga.

"Now we are forced to compete with Europe for the market in Africa and the Middle East." Only farms unsuitable for crops in the northern provinces of Salta and Chaco have had to stick with cattle.

"The image of our gauchos, with their lassos, riding around everywhere exists abroad. But today these are figures relegated to history books and poetry," said Señor Alzaga.

San Antonio d'Arco is a small traditional gaucho town a hundred miles from Buenos Aires, on which novelist Ricardo Güiraldes based his most widely read gaucho story, *Don Segundo Sombra*. There a small tight-knit community still clings to its past.

Smartly clad and booted gauchos ride into the main square for supplies. "We have bought our own small patches of land and cattle and manage to make just enough to feed our families," explained one. The town, with its 30,000 inhabitants, has been a gaucho capital since 1958.

Every year they hold their rodeo festival in the square, a chance to show off outfits and parade their skills at horsemanship and lassoing cattle. Graciela Palotto, a local historian, said: "This year over 600 gauchos came and held a huge barbecue with gaucho music and dancing."

The first gauchos, she said, were descended from Spanish colonisers and Indian women they found living in the Pampas. In San Antonio d'Arco there are also

names such as O'Connells and Lennons, of Irish origin, who took to gaucho life roaming the Pampas.

Juan Tyrrel's Irish ancestors were gauchos for more than a century. He no longer works with cattle but says he maintains their way of life in every other way. He works as a silversmith producing gaucho knives and belts studded with silver coins destined for export.

"Many local gauchos have become artisans, working with leather, rope and silver to preserve their traditions," said Señora Palotto. But they, too, will have to struggle hard against the fall in the meat market, which has traditionally given the gaucho his living, and the increasing trend among San Antonio's young is to invest in a Japanese car rather than a horse.

GALLERIES: LONDON

Fearless poacher is captured by her prey

Richard Cork enjoys the rewarding results of Paula Rego's appointment as Associate Artist at the National Gallery

When Paula Rego became the first National Gallery Associate Artist in 1990, her initial reaction centred on a daunting sense of fear. After all, the concentrated excellence of the collection could easily become intimidating rather than inspirational. Room after room of outstanding artists, most working at the acme of their abilities, might well make the contemporary painter suffer a chronic attack of inadequacy.

Rego, however, is mature enough to maintain her own identity in the midst of the fiercest competition. From the fastness of her studio in the basement, she learned how to carry out daring yet judiciously directed raids on the pictures assembled upstairs.

Like a poacher selecting a few prime animals from a richly stocked estate, Rego picked out the images which captivated her and bore them back to her lair. There they lay fallow, before infiltrating with a steadily accumulated power the canvases that she produced during her period in residence.

At first, the effect on Rego's work was minimal. As the National Gallery's touring exhibition, *Tales from the National Gallery* demonstrates, the last painting she completed before her associate year is remarkably similar in style and intention to the first canvas executed at Trafalgar Square. They are, in fact, a pair.

The earlier of the two shows an adolescent bullfighter being prepared for his first contest by an attentive godmother. In a preliminary drawing, he looks smaller and younger than the woman adjusting his costume. But by the time Rego finished the painting, she had brought about a typically unsettling shift in their relationship.

Now almost the same height, the two figures gaze at each other in a tense, erotic manner. He seems older now, and she has shed at least a decade. While her hands rest on his jacket with lingering appreciation, her skirt curves out to touch his body at groin level.

But the sexual charge travelling between them is countered by the knowledge that he is about to depart, and the bullfighter makes no attempt to touch her in return. Nor does he seem aware of the venomously grinning girl seated nearby, preparing his blood-red cape on her lap. She is Death's

goddess, and the triumph in her maniacal eyes suggests that his downfall in the corral is assured. The companion picture, slightly larger and even more arresting, possesses the same ambiguous mood. Half excited and half doom-ridden, it likewise presents an initiation ritual. This time, however, the oddly paralysed characters who inhabit *The Bullfighter's Godmother* give way to the exuberance of a billowing, blue satin ballgown.

Filling much of the space in Rego's stage-set interior, this full-blown garment has a life of its own. Like the girl's dress animating the foreground of Jan Steen's *The Effects of Intemperance*, which Rego copied in a sprightly ink-wash drawing, the flamboyant gown threatens to make the rest of the picture seem dowdy and insignificant.

A dressmaker in sober attire kneels beside it to tack a hem. She may also be acknowledging her subservience to the dress's splendour, and the mother on the other side is literally dwarfed by her daughter's engulfing presence.

Unlike the preliminary studies, where the two figures are the same height, the painting reduces the mother to a curiously diminutive state. She stares sideways, doubtless at a mirror we cannot see. But her towering daughter looks upwards, as if the gown's magnificence has already filled her with aspirations far headier than the mother's stunted social horizons. Once the background of this ostensibly festive picture is scrutinised, though, the girl's hopes seem just as ill-founded as the bullfighter's. For the dressmaker's daughter lies inert in an armchair, her legs splayed like a paraplegic's limbs. The antithesis of the girl fantasising about her first ball, this forlorn and resigned creature introduces the idea of the female as victim. And in the shadows of the carved screen behind, a struggle is enacted between a mother and a diabolic figure who wants to steal her child.

The conflicting expectations of innocence and experience are locked together here, in a Blake-



Echoes and inspirations: Paula Rego's *Joseph's Dream* (left) and Philippe de Champaigne's *The Vision of Saint Joseph*, circa 1638, are at the National Gallery

like opposition. They make the gown itself take on a more doleful aspect, so that the fabric's folds and dips come to resemble ridges and valleys in a glacial landscape. Frozen as well as resplendent, this arctic yet beguiling garment sums up the ambivalence of the painting as a whole.

So far, Rego's debt to the National Gallery's holdings is far from overt. Her interest in Steen's

dress has not been allowed to dominate the ballgown, and the carved screen no more than hints at its origin, which was in Mantegna's *Samson and Delilah*. Subsequently, however, Rego allowed her growing involvement with the collection to play a more dominant role in the pictures that she painted. The canvases which com-

manded her attention are suddenly allowed to invade a claustrophobic composition called *Time — Past and Present*. Although the starting-point was her white-haired friend Keith, sitting in a room surrounded by memories, multiple quotations from Renaissance images crowded into the cluttered space around him.

A general debt to Antonello da Messina's jewel-like painting of *Saint Jerome in his study* informs the canvas, helping to explain why

Keith occupies an interior festooned with carefully displayed objects. The oppression they induce is offset by an open door in the distance, offering the view of an expansive sky beyond.

The light-filled emptiness could hardly be further removed from the darkened accumulation within, just as the old man finds himself juxtaposed with a girl bent over a drawing. His passivity is quietly opposed to her fierce energy, and the white sheet she is about to fill with line offers relief from the heavy, elaborate paintings after Memling, Zurbaran and Honthorst hanging on the walls.

Although he smiles at the model sailing-ship and toy hippo on a cupboard, the framed picture above them depicts a nun sacrificing a young sailor to a voracious girl from the sea. The legend, invented by Rego herself, provides a reminder of Saint Jerome's maritime career. But its macabre implications introduce an air of menace, confirmed in full measure by the image of Saint Sebastian skewered by arrows over the door.

Suffering and death are challenged most dramatically by the baby girl emerging from a blanket. A painted angel hovers overhead, apparently protecting her. The infant looks apprehensive, however, and the most positive figure in this picture remains the fledgling artist with her sketchpad. Several years on, she could well be the main figure in *Joseph's Dream*, the latest of the paintings Rego is exhibiting here.

The title is adapted from Philippe de Champaigne's *The*

Vision of Saint Joseph, a bravura 17th-century work where the bearded carpenter is visited by an unusually well-built angel cannonading through the air with unsuppressible vigour. Attracted by the solidity of the figure, Rego transferred it to the unfinished canvas painted by the young woman in her own picture.

Here, the angel seems to be directing a message at the artist, hunched over her work in a formidably zealous pose. Joseph has been replaced by an elderly man, who poses in a chair behind the canvas. He is asleep, and his male submissiveness is once again contrasted with the resolute energy of the female painter.

Champaigne's stimulus persuaded Rego to move away from the disappointingly overloaded stasis in *Time — Past and Present*. The emphasis now is on purposeful dynamism, and the artist's exhilaration runs through the bulk of a body brimming over the edges of a slender stool.

She does not seem to care that its legs might collapse under her weight. What matters is the urgency of the task in hand, and the angel ensures that the full inspirational force of the European tradition guides the painter's brush with every decisive stroke she makes.

Paula Rego: *Tales from the National Gallery*, sponsored by English Estates, continues at the National Gallery (071-339 3321), Trafalgar Square, London SW1 until February 29

CRITIC'S CHOICE

TATSUO MIYAJIMA: Miyajima is the man who discovered a compelling artistic use for electronic digital counters and wowed an international audience with his amazing installation of them, winking in the dark, at the 1988 Venice Biennale. For this, his first one-man show in Britain, he has made something magical and mysterious, with a pulsing life of its own, out of one of the most commonplace products of modern technology.

Anthony d'Offay Gallery, 9-21-23 Dering Street, London W1 (071-499 4100), Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, From Monday until January 11.

WIENER WERKSTÄTTE — LUCY MACKENZIE: Between 1903 and 1928 the Wiener Werkstätte was one of the most remarkable associations of artist/craftsmen and industrial designers. In their textiles, furniture and household objects they broke down many of the accepted barriers between fine and applied art. Lucy Mackenzie's miniature still-life, flower-pieces and occasional landscapes are exquisitely wrought, and intensified rather than neutralised by their diminutive proportions.

Fletcher Fine Art, 30 King Street, SW1 (071-839 3942), Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, From Monday until January 24.

CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY: Not all of the three artists in the show make tapestry in any traditional sense, but they are all concerned with hangings that fulfil the function of tapestry. Linda Green's works are in fact paper structures which often hang free, permeated by light. Marta

Rogoyka goes in for woven patterns of splashy abstraction, similar to what many contemporary painters are doing. Joan Baxter is more traditional, working mainly in landscape inspired by her native Scotland. All three use old ways to produce new effects.

New Academy Gallery, 34 Windmill Street, London W1 (071-323 4700), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm (Thurs until 8pm), Sat, 11am-6pm, until February 1.

DRIAN ARTISTS: The Drian Gallery is in its own way an institution, preserving the Fifties and their approaches to what was modern in art, intact into the Nineties. Under its director, painter Heline Nalecz, it has continued faithful to free-form abstraction and semi-abstracted figuration. This is the 35th annual New Year show of gallery artists, and it is remarkable how many seniors are still here, and still true to their original ideals.

Drian Gallery, 7 Porchester Place, London W2 (071-723 9473), Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm, until January 30.

LAURENCE WHISTLER: Not only the senior glass engraver in this country, but also almost single-handed engineer of the revival of point engraving in Britain, Laurence Whistler turns 80, an occasion splendidly commemorated by this retrospective exhibition. The evolution of Whistler's style in goblets, influenced by his brother Rex, is vividly illustrated.

John Russell Taylor

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GALLERIES: ROME

International figures

A group of masterpieces from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, not seen outside Russia for the last 200 years, is now on view in Rome. Exhibited at the Palazzo Ruspoli until February 29 are 11 sculptures by Antonio Canova and the Farsetti collection of 16th and 17th century terracottas which inspired Canova as an adolescent. The Besso Foundation, main organiser of the exhibition, makes it clear that some type of deal was struck with the Soviets, now ex-Soviets, but refuses to reveal the financial details.

The 60 terracottas on show were originally part of the vast collection of the abbot Filippo Farsetti (1703-1774), a Venetian nobleman who, in addition to collecting a wide range of art objects, purchased from the heirs or pupils of famous 16th and 17th century artists the preliminary studies and models for full-sized sculptures.

In particular he collected the work of baroque masters Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Alessandro Algardi. The Palazzo Farsetti on the Grand Canal was regularly visited by artists and patrons, and while in his teens Canova was taken under Farsetti's wing and made to study the models.

After Filippo's death the collection, classified in 18 sections that also included paintings by Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Dürer, Rembrandt and Rubens, became the property first of his cousin and then his nephew. In various stages they sold

Paul Bompard on the return from Russia to Rome of 11 sculptures by Antonio Canova

off the collection, and a great deal of it found its way to St Petersburg. Filippo's nephew, Anton Francesco Farsetti, actually moved to Russia where the Tsar gave him a life annuity.

The 11 Canovas are part of the Hermitage Museum's collection of 16 statues by this artist. They were taken to Russia at the end of the 18th or the beginning of the 19th century.

Some were bought by Tsar Alexander I, some were di-

rectly commissioned by Prince Nicolai Yusupov, a diplomat noted for his taste and for his enthusiasm in collecting works of art. A few found their way to St Petersburg through other routes.

The statues, superbly displayed in the Palazzo Ruspoli, are among Canova's finest works. Today some viewers might find his sculpture excessively refined, polished and formally static. Yet contemporary emperors, kings and princes were prepared to wait for years for the privilege of obtaining Canova's services. As the works on show in Rome convincingly demonstrate, Canova's long career — from his first commission in 1776 until his death in 1822 — represents a vital contribution to the development of neoclassicism.

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page 14

Notes from an eccentric organ

Kate Muir meets Richard Ingrams, too old to edit *Private Eye*, too young to die, and discovers that the solution to the mid-life crisis is a magazine called *The Oldie*

An oldie is not grey. Neither is he a crumbly nor a wrinkly. It is, however, perfectly acceptable for him, or her, to be fussy, curmudgeonly and a touch eccentric. Reaching oldie status is more a question of attitude than age. Some become oldies at 35. Others, undisciplined to the streets of their youth, through rhinoplasty, liposuction and the purchasing of popular CDs.

To avoid such an ignominious end, Richard Ingrams officially took on the oldie mantle this year, aged 54, when he and a number of similarly inclined gentlemen embarked on the idea of a magazine dedicated to their increasingly narrow view of the world. *The Oldie* (logo: the triangular road sign with silhouettes of elderly people crossing) will be launched at the beginning of February.

Like *Private Eye*, Mr Ingrams' previous organ which he left in 1985, *The Oldie* will have a mission. Where the *Eye* specialised in vituperative and warty attacks on the establishment and any passing authority figure, *The Oldie* will attempt to turn back the growing cult of youth worship. With confronting columns such as the "Still With Us" profile of famous oldies generally thought to be dead, the magazine will be the literary equivalent, for many, of spotted dick and custard.

The magazine is the solution to Mr Ingrams' mid-life crisis. It fills the limbo between being too old to edit *Private Eye*, and too young to die, and allows Mr Ingrams to adopt a mock headmasterly tone.

"There is a media concept of the young, the sort of thing promoted by Jane Street Porter and advertising men at *The Telegraph*, which gives the impression that they are interested in pop music, drugs, sex, money-making and reading *Viz* comic."

He looked sadly into his empty coffee cup for effect. "All that is not my experience. There's a great condescension to young people, coupled with the cultural isolation of the old."

He realised when the singer Freddie Mercury died of Aids amid such publicity that there were two sorts of people — those who knew who Mr Mercury was, and those who did not. *The Oldie* will provide succour for the blissfully ignorant and recreate the clubby schoolboyish humour of *Private Eye*.

Mr Ingrams still peppers his conversation with the "rather" and "erratically" of the junior dorm and refers to his best friends by their surnames. By moving directly from caricaturing himself as the naughty schoolboy of *Private Eye* to the batty eccentric of *The Oldie*, he has successfully circumvented adulthood.

"I think it is partly true that oldies like me tend to be a lot more wild than young people nowadays. Take myself and Hislop. *Private*

Eye editor, Ian Hislop is a much more responsible person than I am or ever was. He's much more hard-working, conscientious and thorough."

The youth of today, moans Mr Ingrams, spend too much time with their heads down behind their computers, when they should be hanging out swapping ideas, as he does, in clubs like The Groucho.

Today he is sitting at a table in the darkest corner sipping his third cappuccino. Such are the trials of the tee-totaler, which Mr Ingrams became many years ago when he discovered he preferred a bottle to a glass of wine at lunch. Among the sharp suits of *The Groucho* he sticks out like an escaped don in his corduroys and cashmere sweater which is

Among the sharp suits of The Groucho he sticks out like an escaped don in his corduroys and cashmere sweater which is riddled with either bullet or moth holes

riddled with either bullet or moth holes.

His mild, gloomy air conceals a deadpan humour and a delight in provoking trouble. Does he expect interviews with oldies to be a rich vein? They will be conducted by one of the magazine's financiers, publisher Naim Attallah.

"One of the things about oldies is they are very outspoken. They don't give a bugger any more about what they say or who they offend. So if you're Lord Denning or Sir Alec Douglas-Home or whatever, you don't worry any more about insulting Mrs Thatcher — not like some others who are still in the game."

The problem with concentrating on one generation is that the new organ might easily appeal to Saga holidaymakers indulging in sequence dancing and rubbers of bridge.

How would Mr Ingrams feel confronted by a request to advertise disposable incontinence knickers or those electric chairs which slide the victim along the banister? "I hope that doesn't happen. I don't particularly want to get oldies as readers. I actually think young people are quite interested in this stuff. I'm sure they would rather talk about Captain Scott than watch those ridiculous Deaf Too programmes. Apparently it

means something in rap, but we're not to know."

Like many good public relations men, it is hard to move Mr Ingrams off his chosen subject. He will talk about the project for hours — how he wanted Barbara Cartland to be his sexual harassment correspondent and so on — but questions about himself are shifted or parried.

His various reunions and separations from his wife Mary, who runs a bookshop near their home in Berkshire, are taboo. He prefers to make jokes about his personal life as a cover, the best being the time he convinced Nigel Dempster, the gossip columnist with the *Daily Mail*, that he was stepping out with Pamela Bordas.

For someone who has spent most of his life raking through other people's dirty laundry, such reticence and embarrassment is peculiar.

He does admit he is going a bit soft in his old age. "You get more tolerant. It was one of the reasons I had to give up *Private Eye*."

He noticed it recently when he and Mr Hislop were on *The News Quiz*. "I felt sorry when the DPP [Allan Green] and the incident with the prostitute was brought up again. I said in a semi-joking way that I thought the poor old boy had suffered enough, and Hislop thought that was ridiculous. At his age, I was exactly like that."

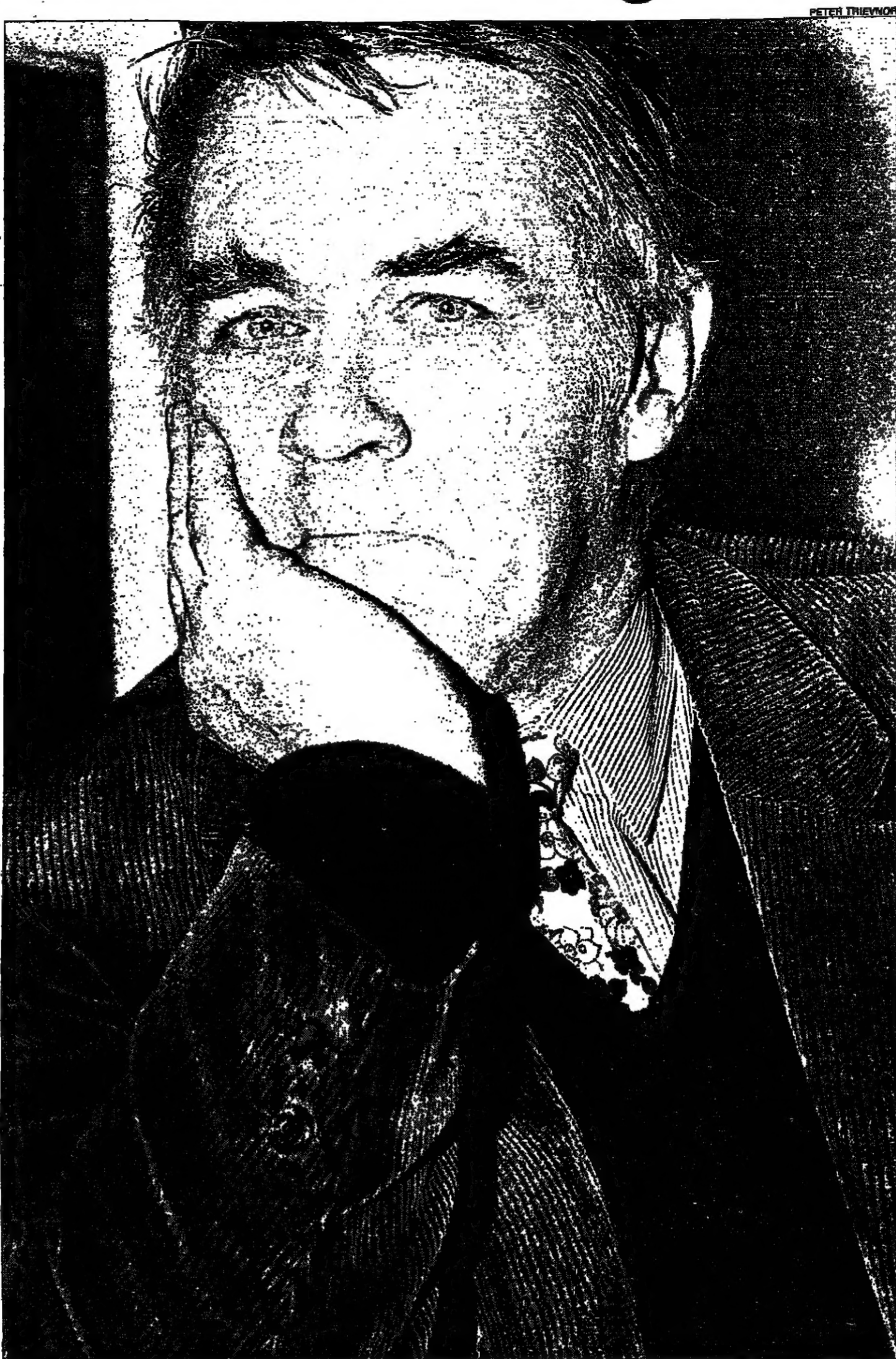
Mr Ingrams take a delight in his growing foibles. "You get fussy about things like pens," he says, as he produces a huge draughtsman's object. "This is an art pen, but I'm not quite satisfied with it. I'm funny about spoons, too. They have to be the right shape," he says mysteriously.

Sometimes he feels "the great uplift, the occasional ecstasy you get from being an oldie". It is a philosophy espoused by Germaine Greer in her book *The Change* and Mr Ingrams is rather impressed by that aspect of it. Fortunately, unlike Ms Greer, he does not demand that his interviewers should be within range of the menopause although he straggles at the idea.

Why a 54-year-old man, who claims to have a mental age of "around 37" finds it necessary to wrinkle prematurely remains a puzzle — unless, of course, the decision is purely commercial.

With longevity on the increase, Mr Ingrams has a trapped and largely uncatered-for audience. Looking round at his fellow members of what he describes as the "once trendy" Groucho club, it is clear the potential is already there.

Besides, Mr Ingrams was destined for this. Asked to write a pre-emptive obituary of himself in 1990, he finished, presciently, in traditional *Eye* style. "At the age of 53, Ingrams greatly surprised his family and friends when he (continued on page 94)."



Addicted to ageing: sometimes Mr Ingrams (aged 54) feels "the great uplift, the occasional ecstasy you get from being an oldie"

A study of 'ordinary' British taste reveals unexpected domestic passions

Style wars and lace curtains

If you are about to choose new curtains or carpets for your home, take care — you could be firing the first shots in a domestic war.

According to Nicholas Barker, the producer and director of BBC television's *Signs of the Times*, which comprehensively surveys British taste, simple style decisions can produce bitter divisions between partners.

His programmes show, for example, Helen, whose architect husband Henry will not allow her to put any curtains in their modern home and cannot stand the "anarchy" created by their children. So she sneaks in Lloyd Loom chairs, antique plant stand, and the children, when he is not looking. And Sue, who insists on changing her fiancé Gary's red mug tree for a plain pine one because it was "jumping out" at her from his beige and brown lichen.

Mr Barker's own battle on the home front is over whether to lower an ottoman in something chintzy or leave it plain, as he prefers. "Like so many men of my generation (he is 51) I refuse to cede to my wife the right to make the decisions about the home," he says.

Mr Barker's five-part series attempts to capture "ordinary" taste rather than the colour supplement version. He found that most people make their choices as the result of a "complex mix of sentimentality, fantasy, personal belief, awareness of age and gender, susceptibility to fashion, and an often shifting self image...". This is combined with anxieties about class, social status and the approval of peers.

Money, Mr Barker says, has very little to do with how people express their taste. "One well-off couple's insecurity has over what type of drink coasters to buy that would be suitable for their home — their solution was to



Reluctant guru: Mr Barker, at home in Hampstead, is wary about revealing his own taste

put their drinks down on magazines."

Mr Barker is reluctant to talk about his own taste in too much detail (although a pair of conventional lace curtains at his kitchen window are described as "execrable") and tends to steer conversation to the art collection which, he feels, is the main feature of his home in Hampstead, north London.

"I have something of an obsession with modern art, and in the main our home is about being comfortable and having a reasonable place to hang pictures," he says.

"I'd say the house reflects me more than Barbara [his wife] and I recognised bits of myself in different people I filmed — so in the first programme I cover all my

own prejudices." This episode, titled "Marie-Louise collects bric-a-brac," demonstrates "how a new generation of men has undermined their spouses' traditional sovereignty in the home," as Mr Barker puts it. Hence the power struggles over carpets and curtains.

Other programmes in the series look at the influences on single people, parents and children, and the British obsession with antiquity. "The big difference between a DIY store in Britain and anywhere else is the amount of 'antique' fittings you find here," Mr Barker says.

Mr Barker, a social anthropologist, feels his own terraced house "screams Hampstead media type" because of the prominence of

books, music and art against a background of plain walls and carpets and pieces of old furniture. "It is a stereotype, a sophisticated one, but a stereotype none the less."

As his series shows, domestic taste is a question of compromise between the needs and desires of the various occupants. Men, he has discovered, are more interested in show, women in comfort. Women tend towards sentimental pictures of their family, cuddly toys, and so on, men towards high-technology gadgetry.

The screen in his entrance hall is a legacy of his grandmother, the Lego and blackboard testimony to his four-year-old daughter, Anastasia, the computer under the kitchen cupboards is Bar-

bara's. But he has only himself to blame, he says, for "the world's most impractical sink", fixed diagonally in the centre of the kitchen where it can splash dinner guests at the "we prefer to eat in the kitchen" pine table.

Eighty subjects were singled out for the programme, which lingers cruelly on each cuddly toy, pseudo-Dresden figurine and trailing flex.

Although the films have no editorial comment, Mr Barker notes in the accompanying book that "the Thatcher years may have given the public new opportunities to define themselves through patterns of consumption rather than their social and educational background. However, the flipside of this privilege was the vastly increased scope for getting it wrong."

He feels that "social mobility leads to greater anxieties" as people reject the taste of their parents but do not know what model to turn to. The series is not simply a mockery of the worst of working and lower middle-class taste, Mr Barker says. "There are some people in it who could be friends... I didn't want my prejudices to remain outside its remit."

His own prejudices, he says, include any but white shower curtains (for some reason he cannot explain), and artificial fires — although he has one in his drawing-room. "I don't know why," he shrugs. "For someone who generally detests the inauthentic, why is it that this is acceptable? I'd certainly never have a fake fire in the country — we would only have real in our cottage in Suffolk."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Signs of the Times begins on BBC 2 on Sunday at 8.05pm.

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Uneasiness out there

Charles Bremner studies timid-talking America

With the cold war ending in victory for America, Euro-Disney opening in France and Arnold Schwarzenegger ruling the parts of the planet that even McDonald's cannot reach, it seems improbable that Americans should be suffering from a shortage of self-confidence. Yet something is clearly awry in the self-esteem department, and one need not be a social scientist to notice it. Just listen to the way Americans are talking.

The old loud, look-you-in-the-eye self-assurance that foreigners both mocked and envied is giving way to a most un-American tentativeness in speech, both official and private. The effect can be disconcerting. The loudspeakers in an airport, for example, may announce that "Delta Airlines flight 123 to Miami is departing from gate 15" with the intonation of a question. In the same vein, the news may go something like this: "Good fortune, like, struck a Michigan family yesterday when their pet canary won the lottery?"

Inflecting declarations to sound like questions is of course old hat in some parts of the world. English-speakers have been doing it for well over a century in Liverpool, Sydney and other places, but the phenomenon is new in educated speech in America. (The old New York Jewish habit of answering questions with rhetorical questions is different.) Starting with teen-talk in California in the mid-1980s, the interrogatory tone has invaded discourse to such an extent that even George Bush, who rarely finishes a sentence, adopts it when projecting his "regular guy" persona. "I'm, like, the president," he told university school children in a chat last year.

Novelist Lynne Sharon Schwartz has called this epidemic of rising inflections ominous and Orwellian. It implies, she says, that Americans are no longer sure of anything, not even their own names ("Hi, I'm Jim Smith?" is a common self-introduction, inviting the reply "Yes, of course you're Jim Smith"). Writing in *The New York Times*, Ms Schwartz concludes that when they open their mouths, Americans seem to be saying "Here's what I think I think, but if you don't agree I can easily change my mind." She points the finger at a current villain, the politically correct movement (PC) and its academic underpinning, deconstruction theory. This says that the meaning of a "text" is independent of the intentions of the speaker or writer. The new inflection reflects a lack of trust in the capacity of the spoken word to bear any meaning at all, says Ms Schwartz.

Sensitive PC types have been quick to brand her idea as "inappropriate", the maximum term of opprobrium in America these days. Frank Peters, a linguistics professor in Pennsylvania, says Ms Schwartz has got it completely wrong. The inflection is a sign of optimism on the part of the American young, he says. Another professor wrote to the editor to say Ms Schwartz had failed to note that "an inappropriate, rising inflection most often is a characteristic of feminine speech". Women are said to use it to avoid sounding over-assertive in a male-dominated society.

With so many words and ideas deemed inappropriate and offensive, it is not surprising that a vague and defensive tone has crept into colloquial idiom. Times have changed since the days when school children had a few incontrovertible facts to grasp, such as "Columbus discovered America in 1492". State that, or anything else, with conviction nowadays and you will be accused of having a "major attitude problem". At the very least you will be greeted with the response: "Right! Ludicrous though it may sound, this is the current way of stating doubt or outright disbelief."

No wonder a sense of siege can be detected in much of America's current jargon. The feeling of being alone in a hostile environment is implicit in the vogue phrase "out there". President Bush, a national role-model for tentative speech, has adopted it as a personal catchphrase, using it to refer to anything happening in America, as in: "There's a lot of uneasiness out there."

Since British speech has always sounded diffident to Americans, the tentative tone will probably not join the eastward flow of slang across the Atlantic. British visitors, however, should make a mental translation. Arriving at Kennedy airport, the man in uniform may say: "I'm a customs officer." Offering him reassurance is not appropriate.

P.A.J. Waddington describes the hazards police face when confronting armed suspects

The force under fire



High-tech rifle: training with weapons is vastly improved

The man shot dead by police in the Rastick siege on Wednesday turned out to have been armed with replica not real guns, a fact which is bound to increase public concern about such incidents. The police have never been so well-trained in the use of firearms or subject to so much oversight, yet more people are being shot by them.

The problem is not with professional armed robbers, who, I believe, familiarise themselves with the surrender procedures used by the police so that if confronted they can readily comply, rather than suffer the possibly fatal consequences of a misunderstanding. The problem is with the increasing number of minor criminals, the deranged and people embroiled in violent domestic quarrels who use guns, or replicas, and are often as reckless with their own lives as they are with the lives of others.

But surely, one might ask, police are trained to distinguish a real gun from a replica? There must be alternative ways of disabling someone who appears to be armed? The difficulties faced

were vividly illustrated last summer when local authority planning officials tried to evict a man from a house he had unlawfully built in Northumberland. There, in front of the television cameras, the man brandished a gun. "It could not be real, could it?", we all thought. Then he fired it and the chief planning officer lay dead.

On the other hand, it is easy to fool someone into believing that almost anything — a toy gun, a stick, even a fountain pen — is a gun. A detective sergeant who unexpectedly found himself confronting a robber armed with a shotgun, pulled a fountain pen from his pocket and adopting the marksman's stance successfully challenged the robber to lay down his gun.

If the weapon is an imitation, even the expert will be deceived without an opportunity to inspect it. When a man held up a gun shop last year wielding an imitation gun, he was shot and

killed by one of the salesmen, who was no more able to distinguish the fake from the real thing than anyone else.

One result of today's intensive firearms training for police is that marksmen are less likely to assume that the "weapon" being

wielded is a fake. The lesson they learn, above all others, is how lethal all guns can be. They have had the awesome power of a shotgun demonstrated to them,

Even when all the "bad guys" have apparently got out of a car and are lying in the road, police still approach with caution. They have been taught how an armed criminal can spring out of the boot of a car. They know that an armed criminal sometimes carries several guns, and that they must not drop their guard when one is surrendered. Of course, the police are also taught the dangers of concluding too hastily that a person is armed. Placed before video screens, they confront all kinds of scenarios in which they are required to make the fateful decision whether or not to shoot. Like the journalists who are occasionally treated to similar opportunities, they sometimes "shoot" the unarmed — I shot a man with an umbrella.

The use of, or threat to use, guns is a very serious matter for all those involved. Police know that if they fire a weapon during an operation they must be able

to justify its use. Despite years of searching the world, no viable alternative to the use of firearms by police has been discovered. A split-second decision may have to be taken in a confused situation.

The image of Dixon of Dock Green advancing towards the youthful gunman, hand outstretched and uttering the immortal words, "Give me the gun, son", is far more appealing than that of the police marksman in baseball cap, body armour and carrying a carbine or shotgun. However, the Dixon image is less appealing to real-life police officers, who find themselves confronting gunmen rather more often.

The police have always needed to use firearms from time to time. In Dixon's day, guns used to be the preserve of professional criminals. The growing use of firearms by minor criminals and the deranged inevitably leads to incidents such as that in Rastick this week.

Dr Waddington, author of *The Strong Arm of the Law* (CUP), trained as a police marksman.

No prizes for prudence

The electorate may not thank the Chancellor for his defence of the currency, says Peter Riddell

For once, there really is no alternative. The argument over economic policy which has opened election year is artificial. The smoke generated by the exchanges in the television and radio studios hides a battle being fought largely on shared ground. Labour and the Liberal Democrats agree with the central tenet of the government's policy, its determination to maintain the current value of sterling within the exchange-rate mechanism. John Smith has been as firm as John Major or Norman Lamont in rejecting any realignment. He wants to appear as prudent an aspirant chancellor as Roy Jenkins was in practice in the late 1960s.

Membership of the ERM has changed the political debate. It has narrowed macroeconomic options, not only over sterling and interest rates, but also over the level of public borrowing. Differences about the distribution of public spending and taxes, important though they are, are now constrained within these limits.

Both the Tories and Labour are trapped by their pasts. Having belatedly come round to accepting ERM membership after the excessive relaxation of the late 1980s, the Tories now have to demonstrate the credibility of their anti-inflation policy. Similarly, after the high inflation of the 1970s, a Labour government would have to reassure the markets. Both parties have good reasons for defending the current value of sterling.

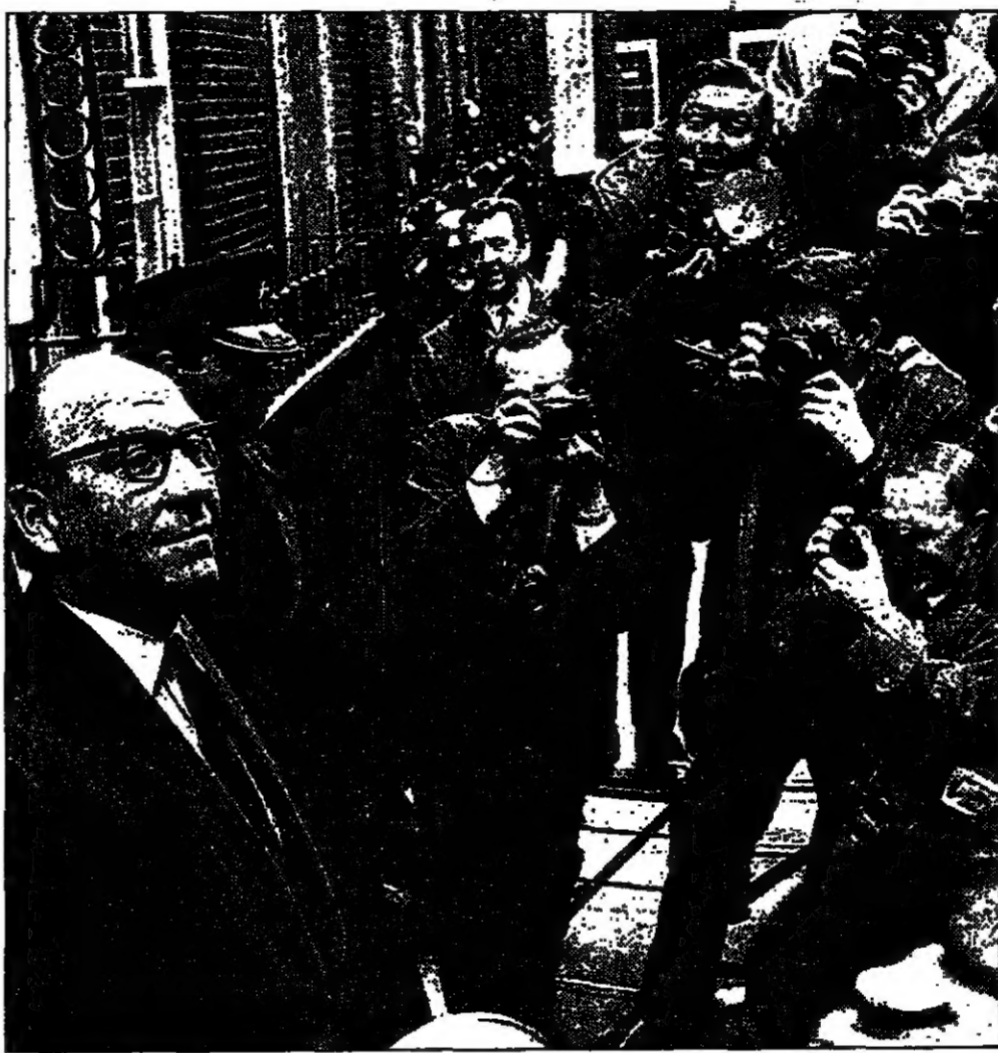
Nor is a quick fix available. Whether or not sterling entered the ERM at the right rate, it is an illusion to believe that only ERM shackles are preventing faster recovery. Sir Teddy Taylor was talking nonsense in suggesting that leaving the ERM and devaluing might allow a cut

in interest rates of 4 per cent. Mr Lamont was much nearer the mark in a *Financial Times* interview when he argued that "a realignment might actually lead to higher interest rates, since the markets would have no guarantee that a government prepared to devalue once would not do so again". Only starry-eyed optimists believe Britain's underlying inflation prospects have been so transformed as to justify taking the risk of reuniting wage and price pressures by a large devaluation.

A general realignment of European currencies, rather than merely a sterling devaluation, is possible later in the year, but this would not be of much help unless German interest rates were cut. However much the Bundesbank's pre-Christmas decision to raise interest rates may be deplored, Britain can do little, for the gap between sterling and Deutschmark interest rates is already the smallest for more than a decade.

Mr Lamont may comfort himself with the thought that his macroeconomic policy is right, and that Labour largely agrees. But this is unlikely to be much help politically. The Tories' problem is that there is little they can do to hasten a recovery. Mr Lamont may try to highlight party differences over "lower taxes versus higher spending" by cutting income tax in the budget, but that might seem too much like a bribe, and Labour has already said it would reverse such a cut.

The Tories also have little public goodwill on which to draw. Current difficulties are not simply, as they argue, the re-



Budget day 1970: Roy Jenkins's cautious policies were blamed for Labour's election loss

sult of an acknowledged mistake: the easing of monetary policy after the 1967 stockmarket crash, when Labour urged a larger relaxation than the government introduced. The key errors were the big tax cuts in the budget of spring 1968 and the failure to tighten monetary policy sufficiently quickly. These fuelled an already rapid expansion of private sector debt, which is now being slowly unravelled, at the cost of delayed recovery.

Moreover, predictions about turning points in the economy, however cautiously phrased,

have been wrong too often for the public to put much trust in further forecasts, however probable, about moving out of recession in "the months ahead". Mr Lamont, an honest man and a pessimist by temperament, fails to convey the confident reassurance needed at such times. He does not bolster public spirits as the more buoyant Denis Healey and Nigel Lawson might have done in the circumstances.

The opposition can reasonably blame the government for the depth of the recession and for premature forecasts of an

upturn, but within the disciplines of the ERM, Labour cannot promise much short-term improvement. Increases in public spending and borrowing already proposed by the Tories have pre-empted any further fiscal stimulus. Labour's policies of larger tax incentives for investment in plant and machinery, and of a phased release of council capital reserves for house improvement and building might help to produce a more balanced upturn, but would probably not have much impact on its timing and pace. For the

moment, however, Labour has the luxury — overdue, its leaders feel — of watching the Tories squirm without having to answer too many questions itself.

The Tories are still well ahead of Labour in polls that ask which party offers more competent economic management. Ministers reassure themselves that voters turn to the Conservatives if times are hard. Whether this changes, will depend upon whether they can persuade people that there is a worldwide slowdown and that the government is not responsible for the delayed recovery.

The latest deterioration in the "feel-good" index, Mori's measure of net optimism about the economy, is much more worrying in party ratings. The "feel-good" index has correlated closely with voting at elections and was clearly favourable for the few months before the Tory victories in 1983 and 1987. The sharp deterioration in this index in December may have been affected by the gloomy news about Christmas shopping, but the Tories need a rapid improvement here, and no interest-rate rise, to feel confident about the election.

The absence of any real choice over macroeconomic policy will not stop voters rejecting the government responsible for recent hardships. And there are no virtues in being right if your party loses the election as Roy Jenkins discovered. His fiscally responsible spring budget in 1970 — when Treasury officials would have liked even more caution — was partly blamed for Labour losing the June election that year. His personal political standing in the party was never so high afterwards. Similarly, if the Tories lose their majority this year, Mr Major may be held responsible for his leading role as Chancellor in taking sterling into the ERM in October 1990. Being right is not much good when the economic and electoral cycles are out of line.



...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

I hate to trouble you with this but I was wronging if you knew when 1991 was going to end. The reason I ask is that I have a 1992 *Times Diary* in front of me, which, over the years, I have found to be a pretty reliable publication, up to date, on the ball, all that. The map section has Germany unified and places like Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are shown as parts of the "USSR", which as you will recall is what the USSR turned into before it turned into whatever it is now after consulting *The Thesaurus of Initials* (Owen and Steel, £5.99). You would think, in those circumstances, that *The Times Diary* could get the calendar right.

But I see that it lists today as being January 3, which cannot be right, can it? Only yesterday, on what the *Diary* disturbingly refers to as January 2, I switched on a Radio 4 programme called *Face the Facts* and blow me, they were reviewing all the wonderful things they had done in 1991. Now everyone knows that newspapers and television are entitled to a bit of nostalgia at the end of the year, but that is, you see, the end of the year. Surely you cannot get away with reviewing one year two days into the next?

I blame *Pick of the Week*, another Radio 4 programme. This has been running for years, every Friday night. Somebody thought it would be a wonderful thing to play back at listeners extracts from programmes they had already heard, or extracts from programmes they had not

heard but wished they had. Apparently the BBC thinks Radio 4 listeners like to be either bored or frustrated, which for all I know may be true.

Talking about looking backwards, I rather think the early part of the first paragraph has been the highlight of this column so far, that bit about "when is 1991 going to end". I like that, but I had you going there, bet you thought, hello, he has been on a new year binge and woken up having missed two days. How embarrassing for the poor old sod.

All this crane-your-neck television and radio is bad for you, in my view. I will grant that 1991 was a momentous year. I will give you that. I will concede the point without so much as a flutter of an objection. You win. Game set and match. How many more ways can I say it without passing the 1991 word record for repeats, set by a piece of videotape showing Terry Waite landing at RAF Lyneham? I have now seen this so many times that I could probably fly a VC10 single handed at the first attempt.

Although I still think the question about the longevity of 1991 is my favourite so far, you may or may not have noticed a rather subtle bit of linkage back there which is worth highlighting. We go in for subtle links quite a lot here on *Pick of the Column So Far*, but if we did not, if we went in for overt links, we might have said: "Talking of *Face the Facts*, which is introduced by John Waite, what

about that other Waite, Terry, and his momentous landing at RAF Lyneham? We might have said that, had we been Radio 4, although whether a plane landing stands up to more than two or three airings on the radio is a moot point.

Sam Goldwyn said that nostalgia ain't what it used to be, although mercifully he only said it once. He should have lived to see 1991, or rather 1992, in which nostalgia is not only what it used to be it will also be repeated next Tuesday on long wave only with the transcript appearing in a BBC book of which there is also a BBC video. I intend to get on this hand-wagon forthwith. Already every available shop premises adjacent to Next has been bought up by my retail chain. Last, whose desktop publishing arm has made a hostile bid for *Old Moore's Almanac*. If successful, the 1992 edition will contain the sort of predictions people are comfortable with: the fall of the Berlin wall, Ian Botham's return to Test cricket.

Of course this will not greatly excite those who read this column on Monday, containing as it did my pledge to dig up the garden in exchange for a knight-hood: undoubtedly the highlight of the entire six-sevenths of the week to date. A promise that bears repeating if ever I heard of one. Almost on a par with the news that I have won the contract to pulp the 1992 *Times Diary*. Send in your postal orders for a copy of the new, accurate one. Merry Christmas.

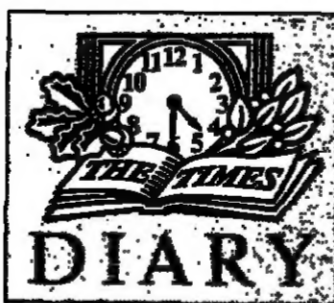
Early reading hobbits

AS hobbits everywhere celebrate the centenary today of J.R.R. Tolkien's birth, few lovers of his books realise the debt they owe to a ten-year-old boy who launched the professor on his career as a children's author. Rayner Unwin, son of the publisher, the late Sir Stanley Unwin, was a boy of ten in 1935 when his father received Tolkien's manuscript of *The Hobbit*. "My father always believed that the best judge of children's books are children themselves," says Unwin. "So he commissioned me to read the manuscript of *The Hobbit* and write a report for which he paid me the princely sum of one shilling."

Unwin gave the work his juvenile thumbs up and the rest is publishing history. Yet the precocious talent-spotter, now 66, is modest about his role. His critical judgment was not always so unerring, he confesses. "At the same time I also approved a book called *The Adventures of Dan the Dog Detective*, which hardly had the makings of immortality. Who on earth has heard of that now?"

Later, when he went up to Oxford, Unwin got to know the professor. "I went round to his house for tea about once a week. It was not a great tea though it was enlivened as he pushed manuscripts into my hand saying: 'Do read this my dear boy'."

Yet Tolkien did not take kindly to criticism. Later Unwin went to work for the family firm, and recalls the row when the printers corrected some of Tolkien's spelling. "He was furious and demanded an explanation. They told him they had looked the words up in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. 'My dear sirs,' he retorted, 'I wrote the OED!'"



● Nigel Rees — he of *Quote Unquote* fame — has turned himself into a limited company. After the radio shows and the books come the information service and a subscription newsletter. But some quotations have stumbled even Rees. Can anyone help with the origin of the saying most often heard in Moscow these days: "The trouble with free elections is you never know who is going to win?"

Snakes and adders

THEY may not have been counting them in two by two like Noah but London's zoo reached 16,000 in its annual stock-take yesterday. Not a creature was safe from the keepers' clipboards as they toured the cages, aviaries and vivariums to check the correct numbers of tigers, boa constrictors and tarantulas were still at home.

Zoo spokesman Gina Dobson said: "We tend not to have a great problem keeping tabs on the lions and gorillas and would have a good idea if one escaped across Regent's Park. But locusts never stop jumping around, the fish hide in the drainage systems and counting the birds is always difficult."

Fortunately the age of the bar-coded animal has not arrived just yet. "But we do keep a record of them all on a computerised system called Arks." And the most diffi-

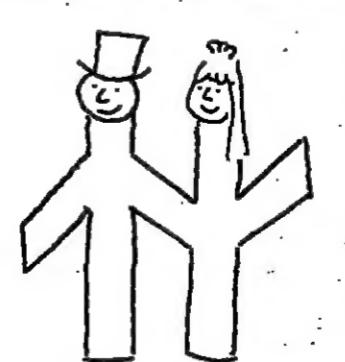
cult beast of all to stock-take? No contest, according to Dave Risley, head-counter in the reptile and aquarium houses. "Blue-tongued skinks from Australia. You just cannot tell which one is which."

Awayday

THE spirit of romance is alive and well at British Rail. Only months after being rapped by the Advertising Standards Authority for implying that it was possible to take a train to Gretna Green, BR has decided to aid eloping lovers by building a station there.

The BR posters advertised £49 fares from London to Gretna Green, but were hastily withdrawn when the ASA said they were "misleading". Now contracts are about to be exchanged to build a station to be opened in 1993.

"It's not just the romantic consideration. There are sound business reasons for the expansion,"



says BR, which was inundated with enquiries when the advertisements appeared. But would-be elopers should think twice before letting the train take the strain.

The wait for a chance to marry at Gretna Green is even longer

than that for the average BR train. Yet BR has a ready answer. "Couples would be well advised to book a hotel room first," says a spokesman. "And we do offer some very competitive weekend breaks..."

● Could Britain be about to get its first woman European commissioner in Lynda Chalker? If Neil Kinnock wins the election, he will follow the protocol of appointing one Tory and one Labour name as Britain's representatives in Brussels. Kinnock is unlikely to offer Sir Leon Brittan another term, and Chalker is said to be top of his list of acceptable Tories. Even if Major wins, Chalker will probably lose her marginal seat. What better way to heat off criticism of the lack of women in his cabinet than by appointing her to Brussels?

Art in the rubble

WITH the final reel assault in Tbilisi imminent, plans are still proceeding for artist from Bristol to swap places with their counterparts in the Georgian capital. The deal was struck between the twin towns after Georgia declared its independence. Despite the strife on the streets, Bristol's Arncliffe Gallery is determined to fulfil its commitment.

However, the British Council, which is also supporting the exchange, is more cautious. "If the situation stays the same we will take Foreign Office advice. We may ask them to think again." But while history is being made and lives are being lost in Tbilisi, all remains quiet on the Bristol front. The Arncliffe management was still on Christmas holiday yesterday. "If you want to know about Georgia, try again on Monday," said the switchboard. Heaven knows what may have happened on the streets of Tbilisi by then.



PEACEKEEPER BY FORCE

After 14 ceasefires between the warring Serbs and Croats, some lasting no more than a few hours, the outside world is understandably sceptical about the chances of a lasting peace. Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, has himself been generally gloomy in previous fruitless shuttle missions between Zagreb and Belgrade as he sought guarantees of a durable ceasefire, a prerequisite to the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces.

Mr Vance now appears to be more optimistic, and has been promised tentative agreement, even from hardline Serbian leaders in the Krajina enclave, that the Yugoslav army will be withdrawn, as UN forces move into the Serbian-populated villages in Croatia, where fighting has been fiercest. But both he and Lord Carrington, the European Community's negotiator who is still energetically conducting his own negotiations, recognise that a ceasefire is only a first, though vital, step. There is a long haul after that.

The security council must now meet to raise the troops for Yugoslavia. At least 10,000 will be needed, making it one of the biggest and most expensive peacekeeping operations ever undertaken. When the troops arrive, they will move into three areas of Croatia which will then be demilitarised. This will give refugees a chance to return to their shattered villages. The UN will guarantee overall peace while local police, lightly armed, ethnically balanced and supervised by UN monitors, will be responsible for day-to-day security.

The essential condition is that the UN should not establish a new green line, a de facto partition that legitimises the present position of the federal army. Yugoslavia must not turn into another Cyprus — a country divided by the blue berets who remain indefinitely while the two communities, under no time deadline, bicker about a political solution. Yugoslavia is an ethnic leopard's skin. UN forces must be deployed in small units where their protection is needed.

At the same time direct political negotiations between Serbs and Croats must begin immediately. The Hague forum is already in place. It does not matter whether it moves to Lisbon or elsewhere. The EC still has a

political, if not military, role, and this must continue in tandem with UN involvement. What should be on the agenda? It would be unwise to begin with borders, although the Serbs would like to do so. They maintain that as victims of gerrymandering by Tito to keep them divided, they can feel secure only if political and ethnic boundaries coincide. But the present borders have been in place for a while, and changing them now not only fuels suspicion of Greater Serbia but sets a dangerous precedent elsewhere, with minorities in Czechoslovakia, Transylvania and Rutherford all wanting to reunite with their brethren across international borders.

The first task must be to work out a modus vivendi between the republics. The plan already accepted in The Hague by all except Serbia involves a future Yugoslavia of variable geometry, allowing republics as much or as little association with each other as they choose. It would allow Serbia and Montenegro to continue their association, with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia forming a loose link and Croatia and Slovenia probably opting for a complete break.

Until now Serbia has opposed this "dis-solution" of Yugoslavia. Still hankering to proclaim itself the successor state, as Russia did to the Soviet Union, it wants to take over Yugoslav embassies and assets abroad. But Slobodan Milosevic is a shrewd politician. He knows that the world will not contemplate any Serbian veto on the republics freely going their own way, especially after EC recognition of them in two weeks time. The Serbian economy is hemorrhaging massively. He has little choice but to moderate his ambitions, attempt to rein in local extremists and continue political negotiations as the UN deploys.

Agreement may still slip through Mr Vance's fingers. Franjo Tudjman, the Croat leader, demonstrating the pique of intolerance that even now could wreck any compromise, said on Monday that if Croatia could not use the UN to free the regions occupied by the federal army, it would do so by war. Once the ceasefire sticks, UN troops must move in swiftly. Only the sight of fully armed forces, ready to fire if necessary, will stop the fanatics on both sides from rekindling the flames of war.

DRIVEN FROM DRINK

When Barbara Castle introduced the breath-alysers nearly 30 years ago, she was branded a killjoy and a dictator. It is astonishing that the extent to which, in 1992, the philosophy that demands that drinking and driving be kept separate has now been universal acceptance. In part this is the result of individuals reforming themselves, in particular, the vogue for healthy living means that it is no longer thought "wimpish" not to drink at lunchtime, nor rude to remain sober at night. In part it is a result of increasingly hard-hitting government propaganda. The drunk-driver who is caught now loses not only his licence, but social esteem too.

According to a Gallup survey for Legal and General, 84 per cent of people say that government advertising has made them think twice before drinking and driving. The tougher the campaign, the greater the effect, with "Drinking wrecks lives" deemed the most salutary slogan of all in 1990. The latest campaign, which brings home not just the effects on others' lives but the humiliation to the driver himself, may have touched the nerve of self-interest which was undisturbed by appeals to altruism.

Gallup finds that 87 per cent say that they would not drive home from a party over the limit. But yesterday's publication of the police Christmas drink-drive statistics show that a hard core still does. Some are alcoholics; others young tearaways; many are part of a boisterous residue of middle-class people unwilling to change the habits of a lifetime and unconvinced that drinking makes them unfit to be behind the wheel.

That this is a minority is shown by the most informative figures for accidents involving industry. These are down in 38 out of 43 regions compared with 1990, and by 23 per cent overall. Since drink is established as a major cause of such accidents, this is a success. Doubtless some policemen will point to the higher percentages of positive results

in many regions as ammunition for the introduction of random testing. It is no such thing. The percentages are higher not because the numbers caught are larger but because the total number of tests is smaller. The police seem to have become more efficient and are catching almost the same number of drinkers while inconveniencing fewer innocent drivers. The aim should be to target the culprits ever more narrowly and thus harass the innocent ever less. Random testing would achieve the opposite.

Some reforms of the drink-driving law are required nevertheless. The legal limit is increasingly appears too high. The "rule of three" was used by Mrs Castle to warn people that quite small quantities of alcohol could lead to a breach in the law, but in practice, many can get away with drinking more — certainly with up to five units of alcohol (for a man). Gallup found that almost everybody thinks the limit is lower than it is. For instance, 87 per cent of men either did not know what the limit was or thought it represented fewer than five units of alcohol.

The time may have come to lower it to something nearer the levels typical in Europe. At the same time, well publicised cases over Christmas have revealed worrying differences in the penalties. The principle should be to hit the really drunk driver, and especially the repeating offender, extremely hard, rather than to penalise to the limit those whose infringement is less heinous.

Few want Britain turned into an ersatz Scandinavia in the grip of moral puritanism. If all risk be eliminated, then so is all joy. British drivers are already the safest in Europe, and getting safer: mobility and pleasure matter as well as saving lives. Modest law reform is desirable, though draconian law reform is not; but what really works is self-reform and self-policing by responsible drivers themselves.

THE VERB TO KILL

I cull: you hunt: he slaughters. The reality for the animal is in each case essentially the same. It is dead, deceased, no longer; it has gone to meet its maker. But careful conjugation of the verb enables that reality to be presented with a slant to suit the prejudices of the executioner. The keeper at Kew who shoots squirrels can still regard himself as an animal-lover, deploring those who ride to hounds and despising seal-clubbers and whale-harpooners.

Such moral distinctions can be defended. For example, there is a case for the culling of animals who themselves have been introduced by humans into a particular protected environment, where natural forces can no longer be relied on to adjust their numbers. Human beings may then play a role as a surrogate predator, acting not in their own interests but in those of the animals by stepping in to restore the more natural balance.

Some methods of control are less nasty than others. It is no doubt a sadness to the Canada goose to find that its eggs have been pricked and do not hatch; but it is less painful than the crack of buckshot on feather. Some reasons for killing are more convincing than others. At the one extreme of unattractiveness is the rationale advanced by Wandsworth Council for its decision to kill 200 of its 800 Canada geese: that they are the "thugs of the bird world". This is unfair on the geese who do only what comes naturally. It is also dishonest: the real reason for

the cull is not what the geese do to other birds but what their droppings do to human shoes.

Yet those opposed to killing animals are not beyond their own hypocrisies. One such makes the acceptability of slaughter depend on how the animals look. Humans are bunny huggers, susceptible to fur and wide eyes. Some animals, like the dolphin, enjoy anthropomorphic appeal. Others, like the whale, stir primeval emotions. Few by contrast rush to don "save the rat" T-shirts. Animals go in and out of fashion. Magpies, like the geese, are "out" in the bird world, and while there is evidence that their numbers are increasing, there is none that they are responsible for the decline in song birds. Skunks, whose name once stank, are "in" thanks to a peculiarly appealing brand of soft toy. Not much morality here.

Amid such hypocrisies and complexities, where does virtue lie? In the past, man has erred on the side of too much cruelty. Few would countenance a revival in cockfighting or bear-baiting. Yet the pendulum is in danger of swinging too far. A cull, for example, of the mongrels who haunt Britain's run-down council estates would barely increase canine unhappiness and greatly contribute to human happiness. Mankind must give due weight to the interests of animals, since they cannot do so themselves. But mankind is also entitled to give due weight to its own rights as a species, and, if necessary, to be cruel to be kind.

Priorities for new commonwealth

From Mr James F. Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth (Conservative) and Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North (Conservative)

Sir, Michael Howard ("Avoiding a new arms race", December 31) is right to sound a note of caution about events in the former Soviet Union, for the break-up of what President Reagan described as "the evil empire" may not in the long run be totally beneficial.

The first and most important problem is how to feed the millions who will soon be starving as they move from a socialist to a free-market economy. Empty bellies make poor counsellors, and if we are to avoid anarchy in the east the people must be fed.

The machinery and the food both exist: the machinery is Nato and the western transport know-how; the food is the stockpile held by the EC and the United States. The Soviet people need help over this winter — a breathing space enabling them to plant this year's crop and to make preparations for its future efficient harvesting and distribution.

But, hand in hand with that, the West should insist on proper control of the 50,000 nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency is the right vehicle for its implementation, as Michael Howard suggests.

Tactical nuclear weapons cause particular concern. These smaller engines of mass destruction use long-range artillery, and it would be relatively easy for such shells to be supplied to some of the less democratic regimes throughout the world. The attraction to countries like Iraq, for example, must be enormous: they were prepared to spend countless millions attempting to develop their own atomic device — now they may seek to buy or bribe them from a quartermaster's stores.

Given the growing anarchy in the east, this does not seem to us to be a time when we should be reducing our own defence. Maybe the Ministry of Defence's "Options for change" should be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES F. PAWSEY,
RHODES BOYSON,
House of Commons.
January 2.

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, Professor Geoffrey Hosking's suggestion (letter, December 27) that Nato should agree to the notion of Russia and all the other ex-Soviet republics joining the organisation is well-meant but unwise. This is not only because there is no realistic chance that present members would agree to the accession of states which have only recently embraced democratic values and which remain internally unstable.

The post-cold war world order, such as it is, needs the Atlantic

Alliance both as a military insurance policy in case some organised threat from the areas of the former Soviet Union should materialise and as a forum for assisting emerging democracies through its institutions for international peace and co-operation. To expand its membership would be to render Nato incapable of action just when its proven capacities are most essential.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCGEEHAN,
United States International University-Europe,
Department of International Relations,
The Avenue, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

From Dr Peter van den Dungen

Sir, Your Moscow correspondent reports (December 31) that Mr Gorbachev is expected to set up and head a Gorbachev fund for political forecasting.

Twenty-five years ago, after his return to Moscow from exile in Siberia, the late Andrei Amalrik unsuccessfully tried to stir his views on that country's press. He courageously had his book, *Will the Soviet Union Survive Until 1984?*, published in the West in 1970 (which resulted in further imprisonment and exile).

One of the possibilities which he advanced was that the granting of independence to the various Soviet nationalities will come about peacefully and some sort of federation will be created, similar to the British Commonwealth or the European Economic Community.

Would not the interesting initiative of the last president of the Soviet Union be welcomed all the more if Amalrik's name were posthumously to be associated with it?

Yours faithfully,
PETER VAN DEN DUNGEN,
University of Bradford,
Department of Peace Studies,
Bradford, West Yorkshire.
January 2.

From Mr Keith Jeffery

Sir, The former Soviet envoy to the United Nations, commenting on President Yeltsin's announcement that Russia will take the Soviet Union's seat at the Security Council (report, December 26), declares that the other independent republics will soon apply for membership of the General Assembly.

Perhaps we should recall that, when the United Nations was formed in 1945, the Soviet Union was uniquely granted three seats (and thus three votes) at the assembly: the second and third are still occupied by the Ukraine and Belorussia.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JEFFERY,
North Grange, Langley Park,
Wexham, Buckinghamshire.
January 2.

for someone who is not already an MP, but the Tories have selected as prospective candidates only five women for the 52 of these seats which they hold, and Labour even fewer, with two out of 20.

The Liberal Democrats in contrast have selected a woman, Liz Lynne, for Rochdale, the only seat held by that party which is not to be contested by the sitting MP.

How sad to see (report and list of parliamentary candidates, January 2) that neither the Conservative nor Labour parties have applied this piece of logic. Seats where the MP is retiring must be the most winnable

and finally ceased to exist for him. He did not recognise me, only knew that I was there with him.

I appreciate the pain, heartache and often utter desolation borne by so many carers and the tremendous courage with which they face each day. I most warmly commend this appeal to the generosity of all your readers.

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE STONE,
Parkview, 178 Broadway,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
December 27.

Alzheimer's appeal

From Mrs Marjorie Stone

Sir, I was so pleased to know that your Christmas appeal this year was for the Alzheimer's Disease Society (report and leading article, December 23).

My husband died from this very sad and cruel disease ten years ago. He had read *The Times* each day for over 50 years until the last two years of his life, when he did not even know what it was that the paper-boy delivered each day. All communication with the world gradually dimin-

Latin and eating

From Lord Dera Moore

Sir, Can it be that one of the fellow pupils of Mrs Rosenberg (letter, December 27), who defaced their copies of *Approach to Latin* by adding such helpful footnotes as "turn to page 26" and so on, had a hand in the compilation of the *Alternative Service Book* for Anglican worship?

Yours truly,
DERAMORE,
Hestington House, Alsaby,
Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Impaired hearing

From Mr Neil Weir

Sir, The launching of Lord Snowden's new hearing device (report, December 16; letters, December 24) has served to raise the ever-present problem of the provision of hearing aids for those people with inner-ear hearing loss. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that there are 42 million people over the age of three years with a moderate to profound hearing impairment.

This figure must be a gross underestimate as in the United States alone there are 28 million people with hearing impairment needing assistance. The conservative estimate world wide would be near four to five times the WHO estimate.

Uphill struggle

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Perhaps if we all, at home and abroad, resolved this new year to learn to play cricket, a game "in which opposing sides do not change ends at half-time" (letter, December 28), we would neither need to shift the goal posts, nor worry about the level of the playing field.

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS,
23 Ferncroft Avenue,
Hampstead, NW3.
December 29.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.

Advice on safe limits for drinkers

From Professor Griffith Edwards

Sir, Dr John Rae (letter, December 26), writing as director of the Portman Group (an organisation sponsored by the liquor industry), raises two legitimate questions about the impact of drinking on health.

He suggests that the public does not find the advice which it is offered on safe drinking limits to be credible, and he hints that it should be more liberal. My own experience is that most people find the stated limits of 21 units a week for men and 14 units for women easily interpretable, reasonably generous, and widely acceptable. These guidelines represent the best possible interpretation of a substantial body of research, and have the backing of the royal colleges.

Dr Rae's second point relates to whether moderate drinking can protect against heart disease. Expert views on that issue are divided and a categorical pronouncement by the Department of Health would be premature. Even if the answer were in the affirmative, the implications

for health policies would be problematic.

Recommendations could only be made within the context of the evidence showing that when a population increases its per capita alcohol consumption, there is an accompanying probability of escalation in many indices of alcohol-related harm. In general more drink means more drinking problems.

There is every reason why the liquor industry and health interests should try to work more closely together. With 27 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women drinking over safe limits and with 10 per cent of the work load in my own hospital, year in and year out, being alcohol-related, one might, though, doubt whether attempts to move the safe drinking goal posts are the most credible exercise in which the liquor industry should today be engaging.

Yours faithfully,
GRIFFITH EDWARDS,
Institute of Psychiatry,
Addiction Research Unit,
4 Windsor Walk, SE5.
December 31.

Drink-driving cases

From Mr Michael A. Guest

Sir, Vide the recent and continuing campaign by the police concerning drinking and driving and the controversy of sentencing of offenders by the Lord Chancellor's magistrates, as highlighted by the Automobile Association (report, January 1), I write concerning a moot and pertinent point and would pose the question: can we in this new year expect the police to use the same efficiency and manpower in apprehending, and those same magistrates in sentencing such members of our society who are not averse to thieving, robbing, brutalising, assaulting and sexually offending against innocent members of society?

One suspects that the answer might be in the negative. After all, the motorist will invariably pay up when fined and not fight back. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL A. GUEST,
Armitage & Guest (solicitors),
2 King Street,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Teenagers and jobs

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Your report, "Teenage job hunters defy blows to career hopes" (December 31), is much too gloomy. The survey for the TSB found that "Of the first generation of 16-year-olds to leave school under John Major, only three out of ten found jobs". Surely, none of them should be leaving school to go straight into jobs. Wisely, they are outnumbered two to one by those staying on at school and college, and those choosing places on proper supervised training schemes.

In a competitive technological world we need fewer people each year without skills or training or qualifications. In Germany few youngsters expect to be in the job market before the age of 19. In Japan over 90 per cent stay on after school-leaving age (and nearly all do maths until 18). In the USA anyone leaving full-time education before 18 is regarded as a

drop-out. Yet our attitudes are stuck in the 1950s, when most young people longed to leave school at the earliest opportunity — and expected to end up in dead-end jobs.

"They believe success comes through hard work", says the report, which pointlessly only interviewed the minority planning to quit the education system altogether. Nearly all this generation aim to own cars and be owner-occupiers, many anticipate being better off than their parents, and a substantial group want to own and run their own businesses.

One day this nation will accept that staying on at school and college, demanding effective training places from employers, and seeking a much higher standard in what is offered by both, is the best recipe for taking on the world's best business; and bearing it.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE,
House of Commons.
December 31.

Cheque book deluge

From Mrs Carol E. Werrett

Sir, One of my bank's newer services is to issue cheque books directly through the mail. I have 16 cheques left in my present book, and over the past few months have been sent a further two books.

When I telephoned the bank recently to ask if they would kindly not send me any more cheque books until it became obvious that my cheques were getting low, I was told: "I suggest you rip up the spare cheque books if you don't want too many cheques lying around."

Are cheque books now to be considered as "junk mail"? Yours faithfully,
CAROL E. WERRETT,
3 Cleavewood Drive,
Bideford, North Devon.
December 30.

EC regional funds

From Mr John Melvin

Sir, One does not have to be a Euro-fanatic to be appalled at the Treasury's apparent stance regarding EC funds to our depressed mining areas (leading article, December 19; letter, December 23).

At present we pay many times over for these blighted wastelands and to rectify their repair on ideological grounds runs the dismal science into a form of political primitivism — which the Chancellor should also recognise as untenable.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MELVIN (Director,
John Melvin and Partners
(Chartered architects),
15 Highbury Place, N5.
December 28.

deafness which could be helped by a hearing aid.

All these figures should serve to stimulate the hearing-aid industry into manufacturing a suitable aid costing less than £25 for the Third World. The world-wide sales of such an aid would more than compensate for its low price.

The Britain-Nepal Otology Service is currently researching into the characteristics of such an aid and looks forward to co-operating with a major manufacturer in this endeavour.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WEIR (Director,
Britain-Nepal Otology Service),
2 West Road, Guildford, Surrey.
December 24.

Family viewing

From the Chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Council

Sir, Why do television producers so often feel they have a right to broadcast into our homes, at their discretion, material regarded by many as offensive and blasphemous?

When we complain they often plead "freedom of expression" and pretend that they have a duty to fill our drawing-rooms with the offensive as well as the entertaining, with pornography as well as the beautiful, with blasphemy as well as the religious.

Against such determination on the part of the producers, the law seems powerless to set standards that will protect the viewing public from these assaults on their sensibilities. I wonder if the time has not now come for the viewing public to begin to insist that the licence fee be devoted exclusively to a family viewing channel.

I have always believed that a family viewing channel on television would attract a major audience, so that other channels would have to follow its example or lose their advertising revenue.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIS, Chairman,
The Christian Broadcasting Council,
91 Hallam Way,
West Hallam, Derbyshire.
December 31.

London's stalest bun?

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Mr McConquodale's reference (letter, December 24) to the splendours of Lancaster House reminds me of when I visited the London Museum, then located there, as a schoolboy before the war. I was greatly impressed by the grandeur of the setting, and indeed of the exhibits; but strangely I can only positively recollect one exhibit — a bun, which was allegedly more than 100 years old.

I wonder what has become of that bun. If still extant, has it yet fully matured? Or merely gone to crumbs? Perhaps this once treasured artefact is currently gathering dust in an anonymous depository, well on its way to a second century.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tyrchurst Hill, Loughton, Essex.
December 24.

Business letters, page 21

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 85; Mr David Atherton, conductor, 48; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 84; Mr John Barnborough, former principal, Lincoln College, Oxford, 71; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 64; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 83; Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, 54; Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general, Ofel, 53; Lord Colyton, 90; Mr Fran Cotton, rugby player, 44; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, Cribb, 84; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, 67; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 68; Sir Errington Keville, former chairman, General Council of British Shipping, 91; Miss Anya Linden, ballerina, 59; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 73; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 70; Sir John Riddell, royal equerry, 58; Miss Elyse Roberts, former deputy director, Consumers' Association, 81; Mr R.R. Steadman, architect, 63; Mr John Thaw, actor, 50; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 56; Professor T.S. Willan, economic historian, 82.

Appointments

Hearing aid council: Mr R. Evans has been appointed for a term of three years and Mrs M. Landy has been re-appointed for a further year. Both represent the interests of registered hearing aid dispensers. Miss J. Blount and Mr J. C. Shaw have been re-appointed for periods of three years and two years respectively. They represent the interests of those with impaired hearing.

Lord Salmon

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Salmon, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and past Treasurer of the Middle Temple, will be held in the Temple Church at 5pm on Wednesday, January 29, 1992.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain G.T. Baldwin and Miss F.J. Wainwright
The engagement is announced between Captain Gil Baldwin, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, only son of Mrs J.K. Hollebone, of Noss Mayo, Devon, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.F. Wainwright, of Glemsford College, Perth.

Mr H.R.W. Callaway and Miss H.J. Little
The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Group Captain and Mrs A.B. Callaway, of Parnsey, Lincolnshire, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs P.R. Little, of Borrowash, Derbyshire.

Mr T. Capstick and Miss A.J. Moore
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of the late Donald Capstick and of Margaret Lynette, of Lincolnshire, and Alison, daughter of Desmond and Jean Moore, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Senhor J.B. de Carvalho and Miss S.L. Lianan
The engagement is announced between John B. de Carvalho, son of Senhores Carlos Gomes de Carvalho, of Patos de Minas, Brazil, and the late Senhora Maria Helena de Carvalho, and Sarah Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Jarman, of Old Tunmore Farm, West Herts, Surrey.

Captain W. Coulson and Miss F. Walker
The engagement is announced between William Coulson, Grenadier Guards, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.G. Coulson, of Gligli, Kenya, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.K. Walker, of Uffington, Oxfordshire.

Mr M. Dearlove and Miss A. Pigott
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs J.G. Dearlove, of Newstead Market, Suffolk, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A.M. Pigott, of Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr T.J. Elder and Miss V.E. Hadspeith
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Joan Elder, and the late Mr William Elder, of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Margaret Hadspeith, of the late Mr John Hadspeith, of Hadston Farm, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Mr T.R. Emyl Jones and Miss C.H. Cotton
The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Emyl Jones, of Livingston, Buckinghamshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Cotton, of Henley-on-Thames.

Mr S.R. Fleming and Miss P.G. Hurwell
The engagement is announced between Stephen Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Fleming, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Philippa Grosvenor, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Barwell, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr F.H. Frank and Miss J.S. Coulson
The engagement is announced between Frederick Herman, only son of Mr Lloyd and Professor Beatrice Frank, of New York City, and Jacqueline Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Coulson, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.L. Graham-Bryce and Miss A.D. Candusso
The engagement is announced between Robert Ian, son of Dr and Mrs Ian Graham-Bryce, of Rye, and The Hague, and Agnes Dolorette, daughter of Mrs Dolorette Franchi, of Grenoble.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pietro Antonio Metastasio, poet, Rome, 1698; Robert Whitehead, inventor, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancs, 1823; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, prime minister, 1945-51, London, 1883; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, London, 1888; James Bridie, pseudonym of Osborne Mayor, dramatist, Glasgow, 1888; J.R.R. Tolkien, scholar and writer, Bloemfontein, S. Africa, 1892.

DEATHS: Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffs, 1795; "Rachel" (Elisa Felix), actress, Cannes, 1858; William Harrison Ainsworth, historical novelist, Reigate, Surrey, 1882; James Elroy Flecker, poet, Davos, Switzerland, 1915; William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), traitor, executed, London, 1946; Edwin Muir, writer, Cambridge, 1959; William Elphinstone Gibb (Bill Gibb), fashion designer, 1988.

Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey

Spring Term starts on January 5, with Adrian Blackman continuing as Captain of School and Timothy Watney as Captain of Hockey. The inaugural Andrew Reed Annual Lecture will be given at the School by Lord Judd on January 13. Sixth Form and Continuation Scholarships will be held at the School on January 27 and 28 and 13+ Music and Art Scholarships on February 24. The Confirmation Service will be conducted by the Bishop of Dorchester on March 20 and term ends on March 21. The Old Reedian dinner will be held at the School on Friday, March 27.

University news

Strathclyde
Grants
Psychology
Niall Coghane (£157,977) from the Berman Group (health education practice for schools).
Niall Coghane (£116,301) from the Alcohol Education Council (influence of alcohol in aggression).

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND GUEST

Raymond Guest, former American ambassador to Ireland and winning Derby and Grand National owner, died at Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 31 aged 84. He was born on November 25, 1907.

RAYMOND Guest was only the second owner in Turf history to be successful in the Derby, National and Cheltenham Gold Cup. He was also a highly successful breeder in the United States and, as the son of a British MP and an American mother, had the sort of connections that undoubtedly helped his appointment by Lyndon Johnson as ambassador in Dublin.

His best horse on the Flat in this country was Sir Ivor, who won the Two Thousand Guineas, Derby and Champion Stakes. Guest's victory with Sir Ivor in the 1968 Derby was owed largely to the inspiration and timing of Lester Piggott in the saddle. His Irish trainer, Vincent O'Brien, considered that the colt might only just last out a mile and a half. This was a theory which was amply proved correct a month later in the Irish Derby. The stable jockey, Liam Ward, had claimed the ride on his home ground, so Piggott rode Ribero, who appeared to have no chance whatsoever on form. However, on the Curragh track, which is less amenable than Epsom to a late finishing burst, Sir Ivor failed by two lengths to beat Ribero.

In the Derby itself, Piggott had been able to conserve Sir Ivor's devastating finishing speed and, after making ground steadily, produced him in breathtaking style in the final furlong for a momentous victory. Guest's other Derby success, with Larkspur, six years earlier, was a somewhat luckier affair. Larkspur was a 22-1 outsider and it is highly unlikely that he would have won had it not been for the disaster which occurred on the steep descent to Tattenham Corner. To this day no-one knows the initial cause, but halfway down the

Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1970 and 1971 as well as the 1975 Grand National when he finally defeated the nation's favourite, Red Rum, after twice being placed behind him at Aintree.

Raymond Guest was a son of Captain Freddie Guest, MP, a member of the Welsh steel family, who served in politics under Lloyd George, and who was a younger son of the first Lord Wimborne. His American mother was the former Amy Phipps whose Pittsburgh family had strong connections with racing in the US.

He was educated at Yale and took American citizenship on coming of age. During the second world war he was in the US Navy, serving with distinction in minesweepers and minelayers. Afterwards, he was head of the US Office of Strategic Services' naval section in London and assistant to the American ambassador.

From 1947 to 1953 he was a member of the Virginia state senate and in 1965 came his appointment as ambassador to Ireland where he proved outstandingly popular during his four years of office.

As a trainer Guest bred Tom Rolfe, who was champion three-year-old in America in 1965 and winner of the Preakness Stakes. Guest also had farming and business interests in America, and in this country was appointed OBE.

He was three times married, firstly in 1960 to Princess Caroline Murat. There were a son and two daughters of his first marriage, and a son and daughter of the third.

mentous victory. Guest's other Derby success, with Larkspur, six years earlier, was a somewhat luckier affair. Larkspur was a 22-1 outsider and it is highly unlikely that he would have won had it not been for the disaster which occurred on the steep descent to Tattenham Corner. To this day no-one knows the initial cause, but halfway down the

DORA GORDINE



Dora Gordine (the Hon Mrs Richard Hare), sculptress, died on December 29 aged 85. She was born on April 13, 1906.

DORA Gordine was a sculptress of natural, untrained talent who created some of the most spiritual and engaging heads of modern times — particularly from oriental models — and then went on to fulfil a series of public and private commissions around the world: she was a truly international artist.

Dora Gordine — as she spelt her name in its Russian pronunciation — was born in St Petersburg in 1906 of a Scots father, Mark Gordine, and a Russian mother. She acquired her perseverance from her father's character and her enthusiasm and exuberance from her mother, she said. Until the age of 16 she studied music, primarily the piano, in St Petersburg and Paris. She became interested in dance and also began to experiment by herself in wood carving. In 1925 she returned to Paris with the intention of studying at an art school, but a chance meeting with the sculptor Aristide Maillol dissuaded her. He called her a "living sculpture" herself, and told her that she already knew all that an art school might teach her and that she should work alone.

Within a year she had developed as a modeller in clay for bronze sculpture and exhibited at the Salon des Tuileries. Her first sale was to Dr Widener, a famous Swiss collector of sculpture. Her first London exhibition was held at the Leicester Galleries in 1928, the first of five exhibitions there over the years to 1949. It was a notable success, with Samuel Courtauld buying a cast of her *Mongolian Head* for anonymous presentation to the Tate Gallery, and the Colonial Office — in what was said to be an unprecedented step — buying a *Torso* for University College, Gold Coast. An exhibition in Berlin at the Flechtheim Gallery followed in 1929.

Dora Gordine had followed the example of Maillol — whom she saw frequently during two years in Paris — in preferring the full, rounded, swelling and organic form in sculpture. Five years in Singapore from 1930 to 1935 provided her with a range of Oriental models whose heads suited her style; with these she was commissioned to decorate the interior of Singapore's new Town Hall. The Tate Gallery owns two oriental heads from this period: *Javanese Head* of 1929-33 and *Malay Sultana* of 1933.

On her return to Britain, marriage in 1936 made her a British subject, and she built a studio and sculpture gallery in Kingston Vale to her own design. Visitors were required to remove their outdoor shoes to preserve the fine mahogany floor.

Exhibiting with the Royal Society of British Sculptors and with the Royal Academy every year from 1937 to 1960, Dora Gordine showed that she could deal with the more angular European head in a number of portrait heads which include George Eumorphopoulos, Freya Stark, Carol Reed, Emily Williams, Beryl Grey, Sir Kenneth Clark and Sir John Pope-Hennessy. She became an expert in colouring and patinating her bronzes.

A year in America in 1947

combined lecturing on art and executing commissions in Hollywood, punctuated by rapid sketching during business meetings or waiting in the offices of secretaries. She returned to America on a visit in 1959. Her art, which had been mainly portrait busts and single figures, was extended by public commissions.

Her works are in the Royal Institute of British Architects; the Senate House of London University; Westminster; Infant Welfare Centre, the Maternity Ward in Holloway Prison; the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey; Heron Museum of Art, Indianapolis; and the Esso refinery, Milford Haven — where she proved, in a vigorous relief sculpture in 1961 of men working, that she could handle group sculpture.

But Dora Gordine is most likely to be remembered by the spiritual serenity and philosophic nature of her unique Oriental heads. The exhibition in 1986, "Sculpture Between the Wars", at the Fine Art Society, where three of these heads were displayed, brought her back to public and critical attention.

Dora Gordine married in 1936 the Hon Richard Hare, who died in 1966. There were no children of the marriage.

Archaeology

Wealth of Roman Africa uncovered

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT British-Libyan archaeological team has completed an extensive survey of Roman remains on the northern fringes of the Sahara. Its evidence shows that the "pre-desert" region was a flourishing agricultural area during the Roman Empire when there was sufficient economic demand for corn and olive oil.

The survey, supported by Unesco and directed by Professors Graeme Barker of Leicester University and Barri Jones of Manchester University, was begun in

1979, but interrupted in the late 1980s when diplomatic relations with Libya were broken. The work was completed in 1989 and has now been reported in *Libyan Studies*.

The British team was assigned to the two great wadi systems of the Sofegien and Zemzem, now dry valleys running north-east through Tripolitania to the Mediterranean coast. Vegetation is rare today in this limestone plateau, and numerous sites were located by satellite and surface exploration. "Our

evidence indicated that a Bedouin-style pastoralist population was living in the desert from perhaps 6,000-5,000 BC," the team reports. "In the first century BC, however, the area underwent an extraordinary transformation in settlement forms and land use."

Local elites turned to producing an agricultural surplus for the markets of Roman north Africa, with the development of major villa farms like those closer to the coast, the researchers say.

lead suggested that the brine was boiled in metal pans which sometimes melted. The Urquid brine pit was probably the *magnus puteus* or "great well" mentioned in the seventh century. Although the Saxon hearths were buried under flood deposits at that time the pit continued to be used into the Middle Ages. The timber shaft was rebuilt in 1204-65, involving excavation of a construction pit some 10 metres (45ft) wide and 10 metres deep. The local industry continued to prosper into the 19th century.

Source: *Current Archaeology* 126: 252-5

EVIDENCE of industrial-scale manufacture of salt at Droitwich in early Saxon times runs counter to the usual interpretation of the Dark Ages as a time of economic recession. Recent excavations have shown that the Roman salt industry continued unabated for centuries (Norman Hammond writes).

Droitwich, in Hereford and Worcester, was known to the Romans as *Salinae*, "the saltworks", and its strong brine springs yielded over a kilogram (about 2.5lb) of salt per gallon. The largest brine pit, known as the *Uppwich Pit*, was rediscovered a few years ago and shown to have been

in use since the Iron Age. Roman timber buildings were also found with a nearby house perhaps belonging to the overseer of the saltworks.

The "big surprise", according to Derek Hurst of the county council's archaeology section, was in the post-Roman deposits, where a set of ten brine-boiling hearths was found. The hearths were set in shallow trenches lined with stone blocks and were about 2 metres long.

Charcoal gave dates in the early fifth to early seventh centuries, and the pottery present corroborated this early Saxon date. Fragments of

GEN RICHARD STILWELL

General Richard Giles Stilwell, commander of the United Nations Force in Korea from 1973 to 1976, died on December 18 aged 74. He was born on February 24, 1917.

GENERAL Richard Stilwell, who was no relation of Vinegar Joe Stilwell of China and Burma fame in the second world war, briefly came to world public attention in August 1976 when two American officers were killed by North Korean guards in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea. He was the United Nations force commander in Korea at the time, and it was his firm handling of the incident that helped to prevent a renewed outbreak of hostilities.

Stilwell was born in Buffalo, the son of William Giles Stilwell and graduated from West Point in 1938 as an infantryman. He served in north-west Europe during the second world war as chief of operations in the 90th US Division; and at the end of the war became assistant military adviser to the secretary of state, and then, in 1947, special military adviser to the US ambassador in Rome. 1947. Thereafter he held a number of Central Intelligence Agency posts until he commanded the 15th Infantry Regiment in the Korean War, 1952-53.

After instructing at the Army War College, 1954-56, he became chief of strategic planning at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe for two years before commanding the US Western Area of Germany in 1958. After instructing again, this time at West Point, he started to make his

name during his first tour in Vietnam, 1963-65, as chief of staff to General Westmoreland. Returning to the US in 1967, he was given command of the 1st US Armoured Division at Fort Hood. In his second tour in Vietnam, he was commanding general of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force and of the XXIV Army Corps holding the two northern provinces of South Vietnam, 1968-69, when Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger were trying to disengage with honour.

In 1972 he was given command of the US Sixth Army, based in San Francisco. He was promoted to four-star rank in the following year and appointed to head United Nations Command South Korea, which included the 600,000-strong South Korean Army as well as the 8th US Army.

He retired in 1976, but in 1981 was recalled by Ronald Reagan to be deputy under secretary of defence for policy, a post which he held until 1985. He married Alice Kay Simpson in 1938. They had two sons and three daughters.



COL MARTIN GRAFTON

Colonel Martin Grafton, CBE, TD, director-general of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, 1964-79, died on December 21 aged 83 after a long illness. He was born on October 11, 1908.

MARTIN Grafton was a *Pied Piper* of a man; people followed him and loved him. His tall, commanding presence, coupled with charm and fluency in expression, made him a formidable figure, but he eschewed pomposity and in three successful careers never lost the capacity to enjoy the human comedy.

After school at Bromsford, he joined the Royal Engineers in 1940. He was promoted to captain in 1943 and was appointed MBE in 1944 after service in north-west Europe and Normandy. On leaving the army in 1946 he began 20 years of service with the Territorials, earning a TD in 1958, and was promoted to full colonel in 1964.

His first civilian job was with the John Lewis Partnership, which he joined in 1948. By 1951 he was general manager of Peter Jones, and after a spell as director of building of the partnership became a managing director in 1960.

In 1964 Grafton was ap-

pointed OBE and became director-general of the NFBTE (now the Building Employers' Confederation) in succession to Sir Peter Trench. He ably carried on his work of extending the federation's influence at a time when hospitals, schools, offices and houses were all being built in large numbers. Harold Wilson had predicted — "not a promise but a pledge" — the building of 500,000 houses in a single year. This number was never achieved but the annual production in Grafton's 15 years was over 350,000, nearly twice the total expected for 1992. In this busy scene Grafton was always at home, whether dealing with cabinet ministers, small builders or captains of industry. He was for many years a member of the National Consultative Council for Building and Civil Engineering, Building Economic Development Committee and the CBI council.

Despite his many jobs he found time to help his staff and his door was always open to the most junior. In 1976 he was appointed CBE.

In his retirement, Grafton enjoyed travel and music, though he was not gifted in it like his great uncle, Edward Elgar. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Rare organ needs £75,000 for repairs

By JOHN YOUNG

A CHURCH in Spitalfields, east London, is seeking at least £75,000 to restore its early Victorian organ, one of the few in the world to have survived *in situ* in its original condition.

The instrument in St Anne's Church was built in 1857 by the London firm of Bishop and Starr for £600. It has suffered badly from war damage, neglect and vandalism. Many of the pipes have been destroyed and parts of it are covered in thick dust, but it is still capable of producing a glorious full-throated sound.

The church itself, though little known, is a Gothic gem, designed by Gilbert Blount, a disciple of Pugin, although the interior is less forbidding than many buildings of its era. It was built for the Roman Catholic Marist Fathers, who had established a mission to serve the needs of the thousands of Irish immigrants who settled in the East End during the middle of the last century, and was opened by Cardinal Wiseman in 1855.

Blount's original plans included transepts and a spire which were never completed through lack of funds. One of the stained glass windows depicts St Anne holding a model of the original design. The

sanctuary and side chapels were finally completed in 1894, and the church was decorated by Joseph Aloysius Phipps. Sadly his brilliant colours were painted over in yellow emulsion during the 1960s, but Heritage of London has given £5,000 towards their restoration.

Father Brian Venham, the present parish priest, openly laments what he perceives as the damage of modernisation, which he describes as desecration. The rose window above the organ was a victim of the Blitz, but the removal of the sanctuary lamp and the altar rails, and the obliteration of Phipps' decorations, were dreadful mistakes, he says. Fortunately the splendid high altar, of white Carrara marble, consecrated on St Patrick's day, in 1801, has survived intact.

Paul Weaver, the newly appointed director of music, says that the organ restoration is part of a general musical revival and a return to traditional forms of service. When "guitars and bongos drums" were allowed to invade the church in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, congregations dropped to a low point of about 50, but had since increased to an average of more than 200 on Sunday mornings, he said.



BARRY GREENWOOD

Under threat: Wigan council says it cannot afford to renovate its 19th century town hall while services are being cut

Conservationists seek reprieve for town hall

By Marcus Bunney, Architecture Correspondent

WIGAN council is under attack from conservation groups for seeking to demolish its listed Victorian town hall.

"It's outrageous. The building is sound and they haven't begun to muster a decent case," Matthew Saunders, of the Ancient Monuments Society, said.

The council has restored Wigan Mining and Technical College to create a new town hall, work which has been much praised, according to officials. Councillor Peter Smith, council leader, said: "Wigan has a proud record in historic buildings conservation. Bodies like the Victorian Society appear quite unaware of the facts. We don't relish this difficult decision but their criticism would be better directed at Michael Heseltine who recently refused a City Grant to a developer who wanted to save the building."

"If Mr Heseltine's department won't even grant the private sector to re-use this building, then he can hardly expect the council to stump up the money when he's forcing us to cut back essential services."

The council is concerned the building is in danger of becoming a derelict eyesore which will spoil the look of the town. A council spokesman added: "Even if the building is demolished, the stained glass windows and woodwork on the old council chamber will be preserved."

The town hall was built in 1866-67 to the designs of the local architect Nuttall and Cook in an Italianate style. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's cutting verdict on the building, "not worth a line", however, was hardly calculated to encourage civic pride and councillors were amazed when the building was listed late in 1990.

Mr Saunders said: "Pevsner's team could not have been inside the building. If the council decide to press the application for demolition Mr Heseltine will be bound to call an enquiry which we will certainly fight."

Agents find few buyers for estates in Scotland

By Kerry Gill

THIS demand for sporting estates and country houses in Scotland has fallen considerably over the past six months with little sign that the market is about to recover, according to Strutt and Parker, the estate agents.

In his annual review Andrew Rennie, of the firm's Edinburgh office, said the farm sector had remained buoyant with holdings still selling well all over Scotland. "Interest rates cut do not really affect the type of property we deal with. It is confidence in the economy and the political situation, together with a revitalisation of the English market, which are the crucial factors," he said.

Mr Rennie said that although there were many unsold properties on the

market, those sensibly priced were selling. Prices for country properties peaked during 1989-90 and only began to fall back in the second half of last year. He said that the most important thing for the property market was to get the general election out of the way. "Until the dust settles I think people will be wary of committing themselves to any deals," he added.

"It is difficult to predict the longer-term but by 1995 we should have a stable market."

"I believe that in 1992 we may well see a greater level of investment in Scottish properties as Scotland is still regarded as one of the last places in Europe in which large areas of natural wilderness can be bought and sold," said Mr Rennie.

ON THIS DAY 1905

and I have known a case where the parents were undoubtedly total abstainers, but the great majority of these deaths occur among the children of parents, a proportion will be sufficient.

I conclude with a suggestion. All who have influence with the poor should recommend the use of a cheap cot which can be made by any amateur from an egg-case. A box about 35 inches by 18 inches, and 12 inches in depth, is fitted with two outside legs, the inside being adjusted to the side of the parents' bedstead by iron or wooden angles, or by buttons inserted under the bedding. These could be made and supplied at a trifling cost.

DEATHS FROM OVERLYING OF CHILDREN

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Having practised in a crowded London neighbourhood during 20 years, I can add my testimony to the truth of the statements of the Rev. Benjamin Waugh, and the coroner for Nottingham.

My experience caused me to make quite different conclusions to those of the coroner for Westminster. Medical witnesses and juries have every desire to be true to their oaths, and, if any bias exists, it is generally in favour of the "person in trouble."

If Mr. Trounbeck's opinion be correct, how is it that the great majority of these deaths are discovered on Sunday mornings? Healthy children do not as a rule die suddenly from natural causes, and delicate infants generally exhibit some signs of impending death, and do not die under the bedclothes with all the external and internal appearances of suffocation.

The term "overheat" may not always be absolutely correct, slow suffocation ensuing from the infant being buried under heavy bed-coverings between its parents or close to one of them.

I could relate many incidents and cases which prove my statements, but their recital would scarcely suit your columns.

I agree with the coroner for Nottingham, that only a proportion of these cases is due to interference. "Rest to the labouring man is sweet," and his slumber is heavy.

Your obedient servant,
HENRY WILSON, M.D. J.P.
Weybridge, Dec. 23.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - In a letter inserted in *The Times*, Coroner Trounbeck has thought fit under cover of a reply to the Rev. Benjamin Waugh's letter in reference to "Deaths from Overlying of Children," to deliver an unreasonable attack on the medical man of his district, comprising "Westminster, Lambeth, Battersea, and Wandsworth," on whom he is almost entirely dependent for data in discharging his duties.

He charges the "medical practitioner" with inability to distinguish, in the case of "children found dead in bed with their parents, whether they have died perfectly natural deaths," and he adds that, in giving evidence, "the confidence of the medical practitioner, that the death was due to everything, is in direct proportion to his lack of knowledge and experience in pathology."

In the face of this statement, either proofs should be adduced to show that Coroner Trounbeck has stated facts "sobriety judged," and that they contain "warrant for the accusation of wholesale" ignorance on the part of a trusted and eminently useful class of the community, or, failing this, that the offensive and unjust charge should be withdrawn.

Your obedient servant,
HENRY WILSON, M.D. J.P.
Weybridge, Dec. 23.

DEATHS

ALLINGTON - On December 31st, 1991, peacefully at a nursing home, Mrs. Mary Jane Allington, nee Jones, aged 85 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Allington, of 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Buried at Weybridge Cemetery, on January 3rd, 1992, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the Weybridge and District Cancer Society, if desired, to the Building Trust, 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Mrs. Allington was the widow of the late Mr. John Allington, who died on January 10th, 1985, aged 85 years.

COOPER - On December 31st, 1991, peacefully at home, Mrs. Mary Jane Cooper, nee Jones, aged 85 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper, of 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Buried at Weybridge Cemetery, on January 3rd, 1992, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the Weybridge and District Cancer Society, if desired, to the Building Trust, 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Mrs. Cooper was the widow of the late Mr. John Cooper, who died on January 10th, 1985, aged 85 years.

BURRIDGE - On December 31st, 1991, peacefully at home, Mrs. Mary Jane Burridge, nee Jones, aged 85 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burridge, of 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Buried at Weybridge Cemetery, on January 3rd, 1992, at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. Donations to the Weybridge and District Cancer Society, if desired, to the Building Trust, 10, St. John's Road, Weybridge, Surrey. Mrs. Burridge was the widow of the late Mr. John Burridge, who died on January 10th, 1985, aged 85 years.

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A little pot of message



David K.S. Tse as the Badger Tea-Kettle: an engaging blend of gentle naughtiness and nervous bravery

THEATRE
The Travels of Yoshi
and the Tea-Kettle
Polka, Wimbledon

FOR what must surely be the last fling of the Japan Festival the barn-like interior of this theatre has been transformed into a Japanese hall. Red devices hang on the walls, red and gold curlicues decorate the rafters; clumps of bamboo are massed at the sides of the stage and the backcloth is painted with a well-known wave. When the scene shifts to a storm at sea, a snowy mountain slope and the interior of a volcano, these settings are indicated in the traditional manner by fluttering lengths of blue, white or red silk.

However, the story of this "fairytale adventure, for everyone from six to adult," is by Lynne Reid Banks, which means that, while there are authentic touches, what we have is more Japanese than Japanese. How much her contribution alters some original fable is anyone's guess; mine is that when facts are being explained the Western mind pushes through. This occurs most obviously in the first half when the story is being set up and the main characters are brought together.

The format, common to many cultures, is the one where odd assorted characters join forces to rid the land of an evil by locating a magic plant. The characters are the young daughter of a samurai who had wanted a son, a monk-poet and a very minor god who opts for mortality. This lovely strange creature was born without bones and when first seen wriggles around on the stage like a white slug or Edward Lear's drawing of his Pobble who has no toes. Down on earth he becomes a

Badger Tea-Kettle, the logic being that since he was born without bones he can only be given a shell. He makes a splendid foil to Nancy McClean's Yoshi, and David K. S. Tse gives him a gentle naughtiness and nervous bravery. In times of danger he shrinks into his kettle and pulls the lid down on top of himself. I liked him a lot.

The quest for the flower, which is needed to defeat the fearsomely

armoured figure of Plague, is imposed by a snappy bird, a rod puppet manipulated by Elizabeth Foot. But for the very young some of the sentences must be quite hard to follow; and it is tiresomely pedantic of the poet to insist that a true haiku has no more than 17 syllables. As the Tea-Kettle sensibly says, "What's a syllable?"

second half to the stirring climax inside the volcano and, earlier, creates a rainbow bridge from a thin plane of light spreading colours towards the audience on a bank of smoke. Effects like this are wonderful and the shows at this theatre often provide them. But the production team's liking for prosy dialogue should be resisted.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY** (PG). Return of the anarchy-savvy, time-travelling teenagers. TriStar, 1991. Director: Peter Hewitt. Cannon Oxford Street (071-436 0310). Odessa: Kensington (0426 914085). Marble Arch (0426 914507) West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **DELICATESSEN** (18). French video (video). A dark, surreal, and disturbingly beautiful film about a household of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac. Cannon: Cannon: Chelsea (071-362 5350) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0310) Gains (071-732 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Box (071-435 3366).

◆ **V.I. WATKINS** (18). Dingo, dingo, dingo! A dark, surreal, and disturbingly beautiful film about a household of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac. Cannon: Cannon: Chelsea (071-362 5350) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0310) Gains (071-732 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Box (071-435 3366).

◆ **THE ADAMSON FAMILY** (PG). Tasty feast of black humor, inspired by the 1950s TV sitcom from Charles Addams' TV series. Starring Bud Abbott, Angelo Pagan, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannon: Cannon: Chelsea (071-362 5350) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0310) Gains (071-732 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Box (071-435 3366).

◆ **AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL GOES WEST** (U). Fievel goes to the 1870s and meets an adventurous cowboy. A Steven Spielberg production; director, Phil Nibbelink. Cannon: Cannon: Chelsea (071-362 5350) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0310) Gains (071-732 4043) Metro (071-437 0757) Screen on the Box (071-435 3366).

◆ **THE COMMITMENTS** (18). Harold

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoffrey Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Ⓢ) on release across the country.

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WEEKEND EVENTS

Badger's Wells, Rossmore Avenue, London EC1 (071-287 8916), tonight, 7.30pm, sat, tomorrow, 2.30pm.

◆ **THE ROYAL BALLET**: One of Covent Garden, the Royal Ballet continues with The Nutcracker. This version, produced by Peter Wright, has plenty of special effects and easily continues up the magical world of its predecessors.

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CONCERT
Bolshoi SO/Lazarev
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

ONE of Boris Yeltsin's strategies for earning foreign currency is perhaps to put all his musicians out on more or less permanent loan. The St Petersburg Philharmonic, who were here six weeks ago, will be back in Birmingham in November for a complete Tchaikovsky symphony cycle; next month the Moscow State Symphony will be giving a couple of

concerts. Meanwhile another Muscovite orchestra, the Bolshoi Symphony, is here for a triptych of Rachmaninov concertos, which began on Wednesday with three works given by the "Dias irae" melody, the Paganini Rhapsody, the Symphonic Dances and The Isle of the Dead.

What we heard was an orchestra less stamped with national character than the St Petersburg ensemble: the brass were forceful and straight, the woodwind clear-toned. But still there was plenty of Russian expansiveness and bass strength in the strings, who had the full measure of this hall in their range from superlative pianissimos to breathing outbursts. Splen-

dourful sheen as soon as Faust strips off his philosopher's clothes. He is especially persuasive in the Garden Scene from the opening cavatina through to the wooing of Marguerite in Gounod's voluptuous "O nuit d'amour". Placcone takes this section extremely slowly, delighting in every sentimental moment. And why not?

Cheryl Studer has a few pinched notes in the Jewel Song which suggest that colouratura roles may not now be for her. But she handles the first cry meeting at the kermesse deliciously and gets better and better as Marguerite's troubles pile up.

With Thomas Hampson exuding



Ladies' Night in Vienna: Kiri Te Kanawa and Brigitte Fassbaender

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on record he took some beating until Leech came along. Similarly, Georges Thill rarely sang Charpentier's *L'Enfer* stage but he did appear in the film version of *L'Enfer* (Nimbus Prima, VHS NI 7829.1 CD) in the mid 1970s, when his co-star was Grace Moore. Before that Charpentier had himself selected highlights from his Paris love story for issue on 78s, with Ninon Vallin in the title role partnering Thill. Nimbus has repackaged them handsomely to give an authentic taste of an opera of great charm. The ENO had a very decent shot at it some years ago; perhaps it is now revival time.

Richard Leech reappears to good effect as the opera singer Alfred in Philip's new *Faust* (Philips 432 157-2; 2 CDs). But it is really Ladies' Night in Old Vienna with Kiri Te Kanawa as a poised, poised Rosalinde, Edita Gruberova chirping prettily as ever as Adele and Brigitte Fassbaender repeating her gleefully butted Orlofsky. The non-operatic blends carry less allure: Wolfgang Brendel as Eisenstein, Tom Krause

8.00 **Celebs** (53429) **6.30** **Breakfast News** (8074924)

8.05 **But First This**. Children's programme beginning with *Defenders of the Earth*. Animated adventures (r). (Ceebe) (7226383) 9.25 *Why Don't You?* 7.25 *Entertaining Ideas* for young people with time on their hands (5351233)

10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (4109787) **10.05** **Playdays**. For the very young (s) (338213) **10.25** **Plugs**. Cartoon adventures of a clumsy penguin (r) (1913244)

10.35 **Peddlers Up**. The grand final of the international cartooning competition (169357)

11.00 **News**, regional news and weather (2882955) **11.05** **Film: The Last of the Mohicans** (1936). Animated version of John Ford's book. With music by Sammy Davis Jr and Burton Lee and the voices of Lorne Greene, Sammy Davis Jr and Margery Gray. Directed by Robert Taylor (r) (1887330) **12.25** **Tom and Jerry** (1887330) **12.55** **Regional News and Weather** (7226383)

1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (8189007) **1.15** **Neighbours** (Ceebe) (s) (8057795)

1.30 **Film: Waterloo** (1989) starring Henry Ford, Richard Widmark and Anthony Quinn. A serious-minded and partly psychological western about a gangster-thriller town that hires a professional gambler (Ford) to restore law and order. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (1989) (Ceebe) (7226383)

3.50 **Film: The Castle on the Hill**. Oscar Wilde's story of a 300-year-old ghost's attempt to scare the housewife who lives in his house (r) (3384408) **4.15** **The Great Escape**. A film about the escapees from the POW camp (1963) (Ceebe) (7226383)

6.00 **News** (1210005) **5.10** **Not the End of the World**. The second of a two-part children's drama set in Victorian England based on the novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* by Victor Hugo (r) (7226383)

5.25 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceebe) (s) (269894) **Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster**

6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. (Ceebe) (7226383)

6.30 **Regional News** (51). Northern Ireland: Neighbours

7.00 **Film: Haunted House** (1989) starring Gene Wilder, Glenda Jackson, Dom DeLuise and Jonathan Pryce. A comedy and spoofing comedy about a nervous man who goes to spend a pre-wedding break at his uncle's spooky home on the advice of his psychiatrist. Directed by Gene Wilder. (Ceebe) (s) (2041863)

8.20 **Challenge America**. Special Report. America's Rice returns to the Romanian orphanage where a year ago she helped transform the lives of hundreds of children by modernising the decaying building and the orphanage (s). (Ceebe) (s) (524241)

9.00 **News** (1210005) **9.15** **Neighbours** (r). (Ceebe) (s) (269894) **Regional News and Weather** (7048)

10.20 **Film: The Bounty** (1984) starring Mel Gibson, Anthony Hopkins and Laurence Olivier. Robert Bolt's screenplay, interestingly reworked the story of the Bounty story with Captain Bligh cast in a less villainous light. Directed by Roger Donaldson. (Ceebe) (1148008)

12.00 **Film: The Untouchables** (1960) starring Robert Ryan, Anthony Hopkins and Laurence Olivier. Robert Bolt's screenplay, interestingly reworked the story of the Bounty story with Captain Bligh cast in a less villainous light. Directed by Roger Donaldson. (Ceebe) (1148008)

12.30 **Film: The Untouchables** (1960) starring Robert Ryan, Anthony Hopkins and Laurence Olivier. Robert Bolt's screenplay, interestingly reworked the story of the Bounty story with Captain Bligh cast in a less villainous light. Directed by Roger Donaldson. (Ceebe) (1148008)

1.30 **Weather** (7549432)

8.00 **Breakfast News** (1848880) **8.15** **Flash Gordon** (b/w) (r) (8058945) **8.30** **Flash Gordon** (b/w) (r) (8058945)

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44.20 **Flash Gordon**

MICHAEL POWELL

Bush remarks fuel fears for trade pact

EC president sees no Gatt deal by June

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HOPES for a successful conclusion to the world trade talks early this year have faded on both sides of the Atlantic, possibly putting the whole deal in jeopardy, judging by remarks yesterday from President Bush and João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister.

Growing optimism had been signalled before Christmas that final details of the Uruguay round agreement to liberalise world trade could be settled by the end of next month, to be followed by a formal signing ceremony in March.

A successful outcome to the five-year negotiations would provide a much-needed boost to world growth, help prevent a resurgence of protectionism, and avert trade wars. The Group of Seven summit in London last July declared a successful outcome to trade talks the top economic priority.

The timetable envisaged before the holiday break would have allowed President Bush to sign up to the comprehensive deal before his mandate from Congress expires. Without that mandate, the president cannot sign a trade pact without having separate congressional approval for every part of it. In a presidential election year, renewing the politically sensitive mandate could prove impossible.

Senhor de Deus Pinheiro, whose country took over the rotating European Community presidency at the new year, told the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* that he was "not very optimistic" about concluding the trade agreement before the end of June, when Portugal's Community presidency ends.

He said Community governments were far from agreement between themselves on the draft final text put forward on December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, the director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, who has led the negotiations.

Continued transatlantic differences on the key issue of farm subsidies were evident in a rash of pre-Christmas meetings between American and European Commission trade negotiators.

Senhor de Deus Pinheiro made clear that France, Europe's leading agricultural exporter, had rejected outright Mr Dunkel's proposals on farm subsidies. He predicted that the meeting Mr Dunkel has called for January 13 to hear government responses to his draft agreement had little chance of achieving definitive results.

On reform of the Community's common agricultural policy, which Brussels insists need not be concluded before the Uruguay round accord is signed, Senhor Pinheiro took the view that the complex and politically sensitive Cap issue would take much longer than six months to resolve. Britain takes over the presidency of the Community in July.

President Bush, at the end of a two-day visit to Australia, declared that he would not alter America's farm subsidy policy, which came under strong attack from Paul Keating, the new Australian prime minister earlier this week.

The American leader said the policy was intended to protect American farmers against subsidised exports from Europe. Mindful that he faces a re-election battle, Mr Bush said: "While I don't like using these remedies, I will safeguard the interests of American farmers."

President Bush blamed Japan's trade barriers for fostering America's recession, reinforcing the warning to Tokyo issued by Robert Mombacher, his commerce secretary, last weekend. Mr Mombacher said Washington considered cuts in Japanese car sales in America an option, if Japan failed to reduce its \$41 billion surplus on bilateral trade.

Mr Bush said: "Anytime you have an extraordinarily big trade imbalance, I think that you would say that would be contributing to a lack of economic growth."

In a personal note to President Bush, Mr Keating this week warned American policy against pursuing trade blocs that could divide the world into three feuding trading blocs — the Americas, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.



Remodelling for Europe: Geoffrey Maitland Smith by a window display at the Selfridges sale yesterday

Sears sells last US business for £22m

Duracell to shed 320 jobs in move

Telecom takeover completed

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SEARS, the high street retail group that encompasses Selfridges, Debenhams, and Sainsbury's, is selling its remaining American business, Miss Erika, to management for £22 million.

The price represents book value for the business, while the sale continues Sears's policy of selling peripheral interests in favour of focusing on retail trade in Europe.

Miss Erika, a New York wholesaler, was bought by Sears in 1977, when Sir Charles Clore, the group's founder was alive. It supplies women's wear to about 3,000 American retailers, with most of the merchandise from the Far East.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, said: "Miss Erika is a good business which has served us very well. But with the current downturn, profits have dropped dramatically."

Miss Erika profits were £5.9 million before management incentives in 1990-1. Sears also plans to sell its Galliford housebuilding subsidiary when market conditions improve.

Mr Maitland Smith said Christmas trading for Sears had been late, but slightly better than expected. Small ticket items sold well, as did cosmetics, women's wear and children's wear.

The first three days of the January sale have also been strong, with the group's Scottish and northern stores being the best performers. Mr Maitland Smith believes those shopping in the sales are coming for specific goods and says the strong start to the sale may be difficult to sustain.

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, revealed it had a 3.01 per cent stake in Sears that it was holding on behalf of a number of clients. Sears shares rose 1/2p to 95p.

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DURACELL, the American-owned battery maker, is to close its manufacturing operation at Crawley, Sussex, with the loss of 320 jobs.

The manufacture of battery components will be relocated to Aarschot, Belgium, where the company has its European centre for battery assembly. British warehouse operations will also be transferred to Belgium.

John Seager, head of European manufacturing, said consolidation on a single site would reduce management and transport costs.

A Duracell spokesman said the restructuring was part of a drive to improve efficiency. The company was acquired from Kraft in a leveraged buyout by managers backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co in 1988. The shares were floated on Wall Street in May last year.

Duracell is Europe's leading manufacturer of long-life alkaline batteries, with a 47 per cent share of the market. Worldwide sales of alkaline batteries are rising 7 to 8 per cent a year. Duracell had operating income of \$256 million last year on sales of \$1.52 billion.

The company is to retain its European headquarters and technical centre, together employing almost 300 staff, at Crawley, and will continue to make hearing aid batteries in Wrexham, Cwyd.

Duracell has set aside £7 million to cover the cost of the restructuring. The phased closure will be completed in August.

UNITED Telecom, a Kansas telecommunications group that is trying to break into the UK market, paid \$530 million for the 20 per cent of US Sprint it did not already own. Sprint is America's third-largest long-distance telephone company. The deal values it at almost \$3 billion (Philip Robinson writes).

Last year, United linked with British Waterways in a joint venture to run fibre-optic cables along Britain's rivers and canals, in competition with British Telecom.

Sprint claims a tenth of America's \$55 billion telephone market. William Esrey, United's chairman, said: "Full ownership of Sprint is the realisation of a long-term strategic objective."

Sterling strengthens

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE firmer tone sterling displayed on its first trading day of the year surprised foreign exchange dealers, who had been expecting the pound to come under renewed pressure when markets reopened after the holiday.

Concern that fresh pressure could force the government to raise base rates half a point was reduced by the softer tone in money market rates. Since the Bundesbank tightened aggressively before Christmas, the key three-month interbank rate has been at 11 per cent. Yesterday, it eased to 10 1/2 per cent. The base rate has been 10.5 per cent since early September.

At the 5pm London market close, sterling was 1.65 pfm-

higher at DM2.8532, having recovered from weakness prompted by remarks on television by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England. Besides lending support to the government's view that recovery is under way, he said he saw "no immediate need" to raise interest rates.

At its best, the pound had climbed 2 pfm to DM2.8530, well clear of its effective floor within the European exchange-rate mechanism. It closed little changed against the dollar at \$1.8685 and was up 0.2 at 91.6 on its trade-weighted index.

Although yesterday was the first chance for the foreign exchange market to assess the

prime minister's new year message of assured recovery and no devaluation of the pound, dealers attributed much of sterling's improvement to the bearish approach to the mark. The latter stemmed from concern about price reforms in Russia and the Ukraine, as well as economic slowdown in Germany. Despite the pound's good showing, foreign exchange analysts believe it remains vulnerable to pressure, which could reappear when the Japanese market reopens on Monday after its long year-end holiday.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said there was a "better tone" for sterling yesterday morning. He saw no need for a devaluation of sterling in the ERM and said the main aim of policy was to create a stable economic environment. "We need to keep our nerve now and stick to the policies of the last 15 months."

Share prices experienced a volatile time during the first trading session of 1992 as strong early gains were wiped out. The FT-SE 100 index ended 0.3 points down at 2,492.8 having been 37.7 higher after the Governor's remarks.

Wall Street depressed

By GEORGE SIVELL

WALL Street started the new year in a sombre mood, in contrast to the record breaking run in the final days of 1991.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell almost 30 points before recovering to show an 11-point fall at 3,157.87 in early afternoon trading, after it became apparent that manufacturers had cut orders in December in response to slow

consumer demand. The survey of purchasing managers, issued by the National Association of Purchasing Management, produced a monthly index of 46.5 per cent in December, down from 50.1 per cent in November. Construction spending fell 0.8 per cent in November.

Comment, page 21
Stock market, page 22

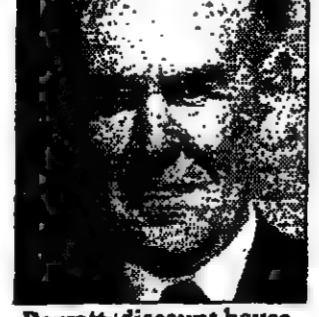
Buy the shares and see the world

By MARTIN BARROW

HARD-PRESSED stockbrokers hoping to generate interest in shares may do well to forget about potential capital gains and attractive yields and focus on the main event — shareholders' perks.

After all, it may prove difficult to convince the uninitiated that shares in Trafalgar House, down from last year's high of 261p to 119p, should be bought as a recovery stock. But the prospect of a 15 per cent discount on selected Q&E cruises to New York, the Caribbean and the Norwegian fjords just may do the trick, while 10 per cent off a British Airways flight may ease concerns about uncertain prospects facing the world's self-styled favourite airline.

The 1992 Concessionary



Barratt: discount house

Discounts, published by Seymour Pierce Butterfield, the stockbroker, shows that many companies offer shareholders a 10 per cent discount on many of their products. Others go further. Barratt Developments, to which Laurie Barratt returned as chairman last year, offers £500 off for every

£25,000 spent on a new Barratt home, while Bellway, a rival builder, offers a £600. After the indulgences of Christmas, Community Hospitals Group may appeal to investors, who are offered 20 per cent off the price of a check-up for 500 shares bought. If hospital treatment is required, a hospitality gift pack is presented on admission. Great Southern Group, the quoted undertaker, gives all investors a discount on Chosen Heritage pre-paid funerals.

Burton Group, the fashion retailer whose shares languish at 38p against a 12-month high of 95p, has consequently doubled to 1,000 the number of shares investors must buy to be entitled to a 12.5 per cent discount at all its shops. With privatisation now

back on track, British Rail may consider the examples set by the unquoted Severn Valley Railway or the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, both of which offer shareholders free travel and extend the concession to family and relatives of shareholders with larger holdings.

Still in the travel category, Eurotunnel continues to promise investors a range of travel privileges on its cross-Channel shuttle, if and when it eventually opens. Those with definite appointments in France should consider calling P&O, which offers 50 per cent off ferry crossings from Dover.

In these Aids-conscious days, even London International Group gets in on the act, by handing shareholders at its annual meeting a small box of the group's products.



Good news if you're retired.

If most of your money is in the building society, falling interest rates can only mean a drop in your standard of living.

As Britain's largest retirement income specialists, this is a problem we have been addressing for many years on behalf of our clients.

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هذه هي النسخة

TEMPUS

Safe dose of medicine makes right mix for '92

This year looks especially tricky for the tipster. Our team steered itself

SIR James Goldsmith once said that financial journalists were better at journalism than tipping shares, otherwise they would be relaxing on their yachts in the Mediterranean rather than hovering away at word processors. Not flatterers perhaps, but most of those engaged in the ritual of year-end share tips would reluctantly admit that there is a certain logic in Sir James's remarks.

Nor, it should be pointed out, does the typical list of newspaper naps constitute the balanced portfolio, well diversified both industrially and geographically and with a judicious mix of the safe and the speculative, which, for the remaining 364 days of the year, we urge upon the private investor as the most sensible long-term approach to investment. But so much for health warnings. In that spirit, herewith the collective Tempus view of the stock market in 1992 and some shares that should collectively outperform the market.

Last year, many investors paid the price for chasing shares too hard, discounting economic recovery which has yet to appear far too early. This year, judging by the burst of strength in the past fortnight, a similar rush is in progress. Despite the fact that January produces a market rise in more years than not, these gains may easily be wiped out by several factors that call for caution in the early part of the year.

The weakness of the British economy merits lower interest rates, yet the pound, caught in its ERM strait-jacket may instead be forced to dance to the Bundesbank tune. Even if Britain manages to avoid higher interest rates, it would be wrong to hope for cheaper money to kick-start us from recession. Consumer-led recovery is more likely to be a 1993 story.

There will be a new government by the second half of 1992 and the pre-election period promises uncertainty in currency and equity markets — always bad for market sentiment.

The only sensible guesses here are that a Labour victory would impede equities indirectly through a rise in gilt yields and its impact on the relative attractions of bonds and shares. Yet the second half of the year should find investors in more positive mood, provided the bulls do



not take the market to unrealistic levels before then.

Despite the weak economic background for business, corporate profits should show the stirrings of recovery after what promises (if the recent flood of profit downgrades is taken at face value) to be a miserable 1991 annual results season.

Companies have cut costs ruthlessly and the continuing labour shake-out is improving unit costs and profitability. Company earnings may show double figure rises in 1992 despite almost invisible GDP growth.

Dividends are another matter. Cover on industrial company payouts has withered to levels last seen in the 1980-1 recession and needs to be restored to more normal levels. Dividend cuts may be commonplace in 1992.

The combination of rising earnings throughout the year and the prospects for some economic recovery in 1993 should see the stock market higher by the end of the fourth quarter. But this mix of positive and negative prospects makes stock selection more tricky than in most years.

The perfect share for 1992 is either in a recession-proof sector or does not depend overmuch on the early emergence of strong economic

recovery.

We have chosen two from the telecoms sector, two from pharmaceuticals and two from the utilities sector. These shares should do well, recovery or no recovery. Medicines seem in more demand than ever during a recession and the sector is an obvious safety first haven for 1992. Last year, Wellcome and Glaxo were among the star performers in the market, overshadowing Smith-Kline Beecham. None the less, SB is still capable of earnings growth in the low teens for sometime to come.

TEMPUS TIPS FOR 1992

SmithKline Beecham A 900p
Medeva 288p
Reuter 1032p
Cable & Wireless 590p
BTR 398p
Business Technology 36p

Medeva, its much smaller companion, makes up for size with an attractive strategy devised by Bernard Taylor, who learned a thing or two from his years at Glaxo. Medeva aims to exploit niche-branded markets neglected by the giants seeking blockbuster drugs. It second leg is vaccine manufacture. Mr Taylor also aims to grow much bigger in generic drugs.

In telecoms, Cable and Wireless is ploughing

through the recession with hardly a pause for breath. After an expected £100 million or so rise in pre-tax profits this year, to £710 million or so, C&W could make £825 million next year.

Activity in world financial markets will be robust this year and Reuters Holdings should serve the portfolio well. A modest improvement in revenue streams would have a decided impact on Reuters' net earnings line, while the prospect of greater activity among its client base as the year wears on should enhance the investment following.

BTR is probably still savouring its early 1991 Christmas present, which was put under its corporate tree in November and labelled Hawker Siddeley.

Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, aptly demonstrated in 1991 that he could pull off a mega-deal. BTR's management should reap handsome benefits from knocking Hawker into shape.

Business Technology is Tony Berry's chance to make a comeback after Blue Arrow. The group's potential lies in its photocopying service side, about 7,000 machines. The shares are speculative, but worth backing on Mr Berry's proven ability to build on a small base.

City wins eastern sell-off contracts

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON-BASED firms are winning the bulk of the lucrative advisory work on privatisation in east Europe, where sales of public assets are expected to dwarf the disposal programmes seen in the West, according to a report by the Adam Smith Institute, the free market think-tank.

The report notes that British government sell-offs account for a third of all privatisations in progress. Last year, government sell-offs, involving 100 countries, totalled \$2 billion worldwide. Over the past decade, privatisations worth a total of \$200 billion have been carried out.

British-based accountants, merchant banks, stockbrokers and law firms act as advisers on nearly half the privatisations outside Britain, giving City firms first place in the advisers' league, slightly ahead of the Germans. The decade of experience with British privatisations has given City firms an advantage over foreign advisers, but the report says that deeper advice is needed at the political level to develop company and property law, accounting and banking procedures, and the monetary and macro-economic framework needed for a free market system.

In a timely warning, given the price reforms introduced in Russia and Ukraine yesterday, the report underlines the need for large-scale investment of western time, expertise and money in some countries in east Europe, especially the former Soviet Union. Without this investment, they will descend into civil war as the political and economic structures break down, it says.

The institute says the small amount of money made available to east Europe through Britain's "know-how fund" has helped win valuable contracts for Britain and enabled it to design the mass-privatisation voucher systems for Poland and Czechoslovakia.

On British privatisations, the report carries a contribution from Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, who defends the big profits made by some of the former state-owned companies. He stresses that BT, which has come in for widespread criticism for what are seen as excessive profits, is investing more than its £2.1 billion profit. The water companies were also investing more than their profits. Other contributors argue that privatised utilities' higher than expected profits indicate that they do not face sufficient competition. They call for a tougher regulatory and competition regime to correct the situation.

Opec prepares for a Valentine massacre

Iraq is still a pariah in the West and the economic embargo appears to be having a disastrous impact on the country's civilian population. But the regime of Saddam Hussein is proving adept at circumventing certain aspects of the embargo, and black market trade in Iraqi petroleum products, particularly with Turkey and Jordan, is helping to fund the reconstruction of the war-ravaged oil industry.

Unofficial sources say Iraq is now supplying about 5 per cent of Turkey's domestic petrol consumption, and the share is growing daily, with as many as 600 filling stations now dealing indirectly with Baghdad.

Two factors have worked in President Saddam's favour. The first was the change of government in Turkey, which brought to power a coalition headed by Suleyman Demirel that can afford to be more conciliatory towards Baghdad than the previous regime, which was fiercely anti-Saddam during the Gulf war.

Second, the recession is spreading its tentacles eastwards and Turkey feels that it can no longer afford the loss of revenue which it normally earns from the export of Iraqi oil through the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. The Demirel government is even considering lodging a claim for compensation of \$250 million from the United Nations for failing to reach agreement with Iraq over the terms of the sale of \$1.6 billion of oil.

The claim is unlikely to succeed but it will be favourably received by an impatient Turkish population and puts additional pressure on the United Nations to secure some sort of deal with Saddam, who is vehemently opposed to controlled sales of Iraqi crude and wants to be welcomed back into the open market.

In fact, the role of the United Nations is becoming somewhat ambiguous, with UN officials in Turkey reported to be approving the import by private businessmen of Iraqi refined products, mainly gasoline and diesel.

Energy Compass, the industry newsletter, reports that Iraqi entrepreneurs are using cranes to load filling station tanks on to flat-bed lorries, converting them into makeshift tankers that can be driven across the Turkish border. The newsletter claims that these incursions are monitored by the United Nations, which issues approval orders on request.

While the black market is thriving, official channels between the United Nations and President Saddam's representatives appear to



Fuel from Iraq: Turkey's Suleyman Demirel

be blocked. Kofi Annan, assistant secretary general of the United Nations, is expected to meet Iraqi officials in Vienna early this year, but there is little cause for optimism. Iraq refuses to recognise the authority of the sanctions committee and continues to argue that it has the right, as a member of Opec, to sell its full quota of crude.

President Saddam deplores the UN plan, which envisages oil revenues paid into a compensation fund from which war reparations may be paid to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while making available some money for humanitarian needs, such as medicine, in Iraq.

The United Nations has a new secretary general — Boutros Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, who took up the position on Wednesday — who may adopt a different stance at the negotiating table. Meanwhile, President Saddam continues to garner support in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, where there is a greater desire to see normal trade resume soon.

Growing acceptance that Iraq must sooner or later be welcomed back into the market — and probably on terms that satisfy Baghdad — undermined oil prices in the final quarter of 1991, more than offsetting the negative impact of the uncertainty that surrounds the continuity of supplies from the former Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer. Having peaked at \$23 a barrel on November 21, North Sea Brent has slumped to \$18.58.

November's strong oil markets were supported by fears that the Soviet Union would not be able to meet export commitments. This concern was given credence when export licences were suspended as the bele-

guered government attempted to assess domestic winter consumption. The review is continuing, although much of the work has been done and now the original problems have proved less severe, no further disruption to product exports is anticipated.

Opec, meanwhile, continues to produce more than enough oil to satisfy demand from industrial nations. Output quotas exist but these are effectively an endorsement of a free-for-all policy, with most members working flat out to meet — and sometimes exceed — their quotas.

Opec produced 24.2 million bpd in November, more than 500,000 bpd above the voluntary ceiling, which is to be rolled over into the first quarter of 1992. Iraq and Kuwait are producing minimal quantities, working at full capacity, these two nations can contribute a further 4.5 million bpd. Opec can adequately meet the call on its oil in the first quarter, which is estimated at 24.4 million bpd. The crunch will come in the second quarter when the International Energy Agency expects demand to decline to around 22.4 million bpd, some 500,000 bpd less than Opec's own forecast.

If a sharp fall in oil prices is to be avoided, the end of the peak winter quarter a high degree of compromise will be required when Opec next meets in February. But all members, including Saudi Arabia, are feeling the impact of the credit crunch in industrial nations and are in the business of maximising revenues from oil.

The scene is thus set for a St Valentine's day massacre when the cartel meets in Vienna on February 14 and the outlook for oil prices remains as murky as ever.

MARTIN BARROW

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

ASDA	8,800	Cadbury	783	Lorha	1,100	Ryl Bk	1,100
Abbey Nat	1,800	Cm Union	317	Lucas	2,900	Sainsbury	2,900
Ad-Lyons	1,800	Countryside	1,400	MEPC	440	Scot & New	1,000
Anglian W	340	Emeror	815	Marsr Sp	1,000	Scot Power	1,000
Anglo Plc	1,500	Euromat	773	Midland Bk	635	Sainsbury	2,900
Argo Wren	420	Fisons	5,100	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Asda Foods	950	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BAA	1,300	GUS	4,900	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BAT Ind	6,000	IRE	517	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BET	1,400	Johns	933	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BOC	764	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BP	6,200	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
BTR	2,800	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bk of Scot	4,500	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Barclays	3,000	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bm	1,400	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Blue Circle	1,100	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Boots	1,400	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bri Aero	1,400	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bri Airways	5,500	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bri Gas	8,300	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bri Steel	5,100	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Bri Tele	5,000	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000
Cable Wire	2,300	Glaxo	1,600	NatWest Bk	2,800	Scot & New	1,000

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	3156.98 (-11.85)
Dow Jones	3156.98 (-11.85)
S&P Composite	413.39 (-3.70)
Telco	Closed
Nikkei Av'ge	Closed
London:	
FT A-All-Share	1188.44 (+0.74)
FT 500	1334.49 (+0.04)
FT 100	137.9 (-0.54)
FT Govt Sec	87.00 (+0.72)
FT Fixed Interest	97.15 (-0.54)
FT Govt Sec	87.00 (+0.72)
SEAG Volume	457.1m
USM (Datastrm)	141.36 (+0.90)
Frankfurt DAX	1601.88 (+23.90)
First Dealings	241
Last Dealings	241
Last Settlement	241
For Settlement	241
December 16	241
January 3	241
ASDA, Avira, Baldwin, LASMO, Proton	
Tarmac, Pat Soundcraft, Pat & Co, Lomax	

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
Mar 92	2335.0	2380.0	2335.0	2340.0	7830
Jun 92	2335.0	2380.0	2335.0	2340.0	7830
Three Month Sterling	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854
Three Month Euro DM	92.25	92.30	92.25	92.25	2854

Exchange index compared with 1985 was at 91.6

STERLING SPOT RATES	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Australia dollar	3.2016-3.2147	3.2115	1.41p	1.41p
Canada dollar	1.5848-1.5852	1.5850	6.3p	6.3p
Denmark	11.0051-11.1187	11.0941	1.11p	1.11p
Dutch guilder	1.0718-1.0722	1.0720	6.1p	6.1p
French franc	2.8324-2.8328	2.8326	4.4p	4.4p
German mark	2.4924-2.5149	2.4924	45.12p	45.12p
Italian lira	1936.25-1936.25	1936.25	76.2p	76.2p
Japanese yen	214.04-215.62	214.75	1.41p	1.41p
Swiss franc	2.1482-2.1522	2.1482	0.64p	0.64p
US dollar	1.8680-1.8680	1.8680	1.33p	1.33p
Other Sterling Rates				
Argentina austral	18732.4-18761.2	18732.4	1.31p	1.31p
Australia dollar	2.4706-2.4829	2.4706	1.41p	1.41p
Bahian dollar	0.7015-0.7095	0.7015	1.31p	1.31p
Brazil cruzeiro	1064.17-1065.10	1064.17	1.31p	1.31p
Cyprus pound	0.81-0.82	0.81	1.31p	1.31p
Finland markka	2.715-2.715	2.715	1.31p	1.31p
Green drachma	327.65-330.85	327.65	1.31p	1.31p
Hong Kong dollar	14.5862-14.5960	14.5862	1.31p	1.31p
Indian rupee	48.06-48.46	48.06	1.31p	1.31p
Israeli sheqel	1.5234-1.5335	1.5234	1.31p	1.31p
Japanese yen	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
Malaysian ringgit	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
Mexican peso	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
New Zealand dollar	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.98-7.06	6.98	1.31p	1.31p
Singapore dollar	3.0494-3.0530	3.0494	1.31p	1.31p
South African rand	9.901-9.9073	9.901	1.31p	1.31p
Swedish krona	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
Swiss franc	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p
US dollar	5.1045-5.1092	5.1045	1.31p	1.31p

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentine austral	18732.4-18761.2
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Green drachma	327.65-330.85
Hong Kong dollar	14.5862-14.5960
Indian rupee	48.06-48.46
Israeli sheqel	1.5234-1.5335
Japanese yen	5.1045-5.1092
Malaysian ringgit	5.1045-5.1092
Mexican peso	5.1045-5.1092
New Zealand dollar	5.1045-5.1092
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.98-7.06
Singapore dollar	3.0494-3.0530
South African rand	9.901-9.9073
Swedish krona	5.1045-5.1092
Swiss franc	5.1045-5.1092
US dollar	5.1045-5.1092

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10%	Finance Hse 11
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high 10%	Low 8
Treasury Bills (141) Buy 2 mth 10% 3 mth 10% 6 mth 10% 12 mth 10%	
Prime Bank Bills (141) 1 mth 10% 3 mth 10% 6 mth 10% 12 mth 10%	
Sterling Money Rates: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
Interbank: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
Overnight on 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
Local Authority Depos: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
Sterling CDs: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
CDs: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	
Building Society CDs: 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%	

EUROPEAN MONEY RATES (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Coll
Dutch guilder	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
French franc	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
German mark	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
Italian lira	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
Japanese yen	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
Swiss franc	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p
US dollar	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p	4.4p

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Gold: Open \$353.30-353

Selection process begins for buyer of Medway port

By Ross TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Medway Port Authority yesterday began the tricky process of selecting a buyer for Britain's fourth-largest port.

Eight would-be operators expressed interest in acquiring the assets of the port — which controls facilities on the Medway Estuary in Kent, at Sheerness, Chatham, and a number of smaller wharves — before the December 20 deadline for preliminary bids.

Bidders will now have a month to discuss their proposals with the authority and obtain further information, before the February 3 deadline for final offers.

Medway will be the second trust port to be privatised since the Ports Act received royal assent last July. Under the act, 13 others with a turnover of £5 million or more are required to draw up privatisation proposals by mid-1993.

Only Ipswich has said it may seek to use a get-out clause in the act to defer privatisation, although uncertainty about the impact of the Channel tunnel on cross-Channel traffic may cause Dover to do the same.

Management and employees at Medway have formed a bidding consortium under the leadership of the port's chief executive, Peter Vincent. The proposal has financial

backing from Charterhouse, the merchant bank. However, the surprise rejection of a management and employee offer for the port of Tees & Hartlepool, the first trust port to seek privatisation, has cast doubts on earlier expectations that employees would have the inside track.

In a parliamentary written answer last month, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, said he was "minded" to accept a recommendation from the Tees & Hartlepool Port Authority that the port should be sold to a consortium led by Powell Duffryn for £180 million.

The Tees managers bid only £150 million, believing that the authority's enthusiasm for employee participation would be diminished if they were to recruit an outside partner.

Maritime Transport Services (MTS), which topped the bidding for Tees with an unsuccessful £202 million offer, is believed to be a keen contender for Medway.

MTS operates the Isle of Grain container terminal on the Medway estuary within the port's conservancy area, which has given it local knowledge and a track record of creating jobs in the area. It also has access to plentiful funds.

Other likely bidders for Medway are believed to include Hutchison Whampoa — the Hong Kong conglomerate which last year bought the port of Felixstowe — Sea Containers, the ferry operator, and Ocean Group, which made an unsuccessful £155 million bid for Tees.

Associated British Ports, the quoted former state-owned port operator, is also believed to have expressed in-

terest. So is Dover Harbour Board, a rival trust port.

Despite the maritime heritage of the Medway towns, Medway Port Authority is different from most trust ports in two key respects. One is that it is relatively new, having begun life only 32 years ago after the Royal Navy ceased operations at Sheerness. Consequently — in stark contrast to Tees — it has little surplus land available for redevelopment.

Indeed, a large part of the £15 million invested by Medway during 1990 was spent on reclaiming land from the sea. "We make our living from cargo handling," Mr Vincent said. "There is not much opportunity to make profits from property development here."

Medway's other difference is that its centre of operations, Sheerness, is on the Isle of Sheppey, an area of high unemployment with a single access road to the mainland. The port, with 650 employees, is the island's largest industrial employer and a key part of the local economy.

The high level of investment has left Medway with debts of £27 million. In 1990, on turnover of £30.5 million, the port made a post-tax profit of £904,000. The most reliable estimates suggest that the underlying worth of the business is £10 to £15 million.

The relative modernity of many of the port's facilities, however, and its southeast location appear to make it a relatively recession proof.

While car imports fell last year, the loss of traffic was compensated by a rise in car exports. Medway is also a base for ferry services to the continent, and imports fruit and timber.



Assured of a bright future: Mike Wilson, Sir Mark Weinberg, and Lord Rothschild, the deputy chairman

Creditors ask courts to protect Zale

By PHILIP ROBINSON, IN NEW YORK

CREDITORS of Zale Corporation, America's largest jeweller which is closing one in five of its stores, are trying to force the firm into the protection of the bankruptcy courts.

One petitioner is Barre, the Dallas investment company, which sold its clients more than \$50 million worth of the Zale corporate bonds on which the jeweller defaulted yesterday — interest payments of \$52 million went unpaid at the final deadline.

Zale had already missed the first deadline in December, hoping that Christmas trade would generate sufficient cash to meet the debt before January 2. However, Christmas sales fell 11 per cent. David Glatstein, president of Barre, said: "We had warned everybody, if the company didn't make its payments, that we were going to do this."

Mr Glatstein said Zale now had two options. It could ask a judge to reject the bankruptcy petition, claiming that the group was not representative of the company's creditors; or it could consent to the filing and reorganise with protection from its creditors.

Zale, which operates four chains — Zale's, Bailey Banks & Biddle, Gordon's, and Corrigan's — announced on Monday that it was closing 400 of its 2,000 stores and cutting 2,500 jobs.

Mark Weinberg's career takes off for third time

By SARA MCCONNELL

SIR Mark Weinberg's 30-year career in the life assurance industry took off for the third time yesterday as J Rothschild Assurance, the new company of which he is chairman, started trading.

The company is backed by a £25.4 million capital injection from St James's Place Capital, the investment company chaired by Lord Rothschild. Sir Mark is also joint chairman of St James's Place Capital, which will have a 40 per cent stake in J Rothschild.

Thirty years ago, Sir Mark set up Abbey Life, followed ten years later by Hambro Life, later sold to BAT Industries and renamed Allied Dunbar. Both firms pioneered the sale of unit-linked life assurance in Britain. Two and a half years ago, his career at Allied Dunbar ended when he resigned from the BAT board because of a conflict of interests during the attempted takeover of BAT by Hovlyake, used by Lord Rothschild to mount the bid.

Sir Mark said yesterday: "I remained as chairman of Allied Dunbar for another 18 months but I wasn't involved. I was in a kind of limbo for the last two years and this was not a good way to finish my career. I wanted to finish on a high note."

He became involved with setting up J Rothschild when St James's Place Capital was approached for funds for five years. Mr Wilson predicted, Mr Wilson said all have had at least ten years' sales experience and have average earnings of £50,000 a year. At this level, these employees could have shareholdings worth £150,000 after three years or £300,000 after five years. Mr Wilson predicted, J Rothschild has a range of ten life assurance, pension and investment products. All are unit-linked but investors can choose to invest in the funds of Scottish Amicable. M&G Investment Management or J Rothschild Investment Management.

men have been recruited to the company's direct sales force. Two thirds of these come from Allied Dunbar, which last year tightened the terms of its salesmen's contracts to prevent salesmen soliciting business from Allied Dunbar clients for a year after leaving the company.

Mr Wilson said all have had at least ten years' sales experience and have average earnings of £50,000 a year. At this level, these employees could have shareholdings worth £150,000 after three years or £300,000 after five years. Mr Wilson predicted, J Rothschild has a range of ten life assurance, pension and investment products. All are unit-linked but investors can choose to invest in the funds of Scottish Amicable. M&G Investment Management or J Rothschild Investment Management.

Sun Alliance pegs bonuses

SUN Alliance, the composite insurer, has maintained bonuses on all life assurance and pension policies after cutting rates across the board last year and in 1988 (Sara McConnell writes).

The company will again pay a bonus of 3.5 per cent of sum assured, plus 7 per cent of existing annual bonuses on life policies. Pension policies will earn a bonus of 3.5 per cent on the guaranteed basic

sum, plus 7.25 per cent of existing bonuses.

The value of a 25-year endowment policy maturing in 1992 into which someone has been paying £30 a month will be £52,020. Of this total, £25,565 is terminal bonus, paid the year the policy matures.

The same £30-a-month paid into a 10-year endowment policy maturing this year will be £7,060, while the

value of a maturing 15-year endowment will be £15,693. Some of these payouts are slightly higher than last year because they attracted capital bonuses, which are reviewed on a monthly basis.

Jamie Woods, Sun Alliance's chief actuary, said: "Our policy over recent years has been gradually to manage down reversionary bonuses to levels in line with our view of investment market trends."

Year delay expected in Nadir trial

Lawyers appointed last month to defend Asil Nadir, former chairman of Polly Peck International, in criminal and civil actions, expect a year's delay before he faces a fraud trial.

Peter Lakin of Pannone March Pearson, the law firm, who is representing Mr Nadir in a criminal prosecution brought by the Serious Fraud Office, said the next 12 months would be needed to prepare the defence and meet the prosecution's claims.

Mr Nadir had been represented by Vizard's in the SFO case and by S J Berwin in civil actions brought by his personal creditors and administrators for Polly Peck. Pannone March now handles both criminal and civil cases.

The SFO has charged Mr Nadir with more than 70 counts of theft relating to about £160 million.

US to rule on MCC plan

The New York bankruptcy court is today expected to approve a plan to co-ordinate insolvency proceedings against Maxwell Communication Corporation on both sides of the Atlantic.

On Tuesday, the English High Court approved the arrangement, which is designed to overcome conflicts of jurisdiction arising from MCC being simultaneously under Chapter 11 protection in America and administration in Britain.

NSA buyback

North Sea Assets, the offshore services group, has sold its 48 per cent holding in Drangate, the owner and operator of two specialist offshore support vessels, for £1.2 million. The investment is being sold back to Drangate and the surplus of £96,000 over the book value will be credited as an extraordinary dividend.

C&C swap

Capital & Counties has exchanged its 48.5 per cent, largely leasehold interest in Nottingham's Victoria Centre for a 20 per cent share in a new partnership formed to acquire the centre's freehold and £34.7 million cash.

Courtauld's sale

Courtauld Woollens, the Huddersfield manufacturer of woven woollen fabrics, has been acquired by Drummond Group for £695,000 cash from Courtauld Textile (Holdings).

Danish deal

Alm Brand, the Danish insurance and banking group, has acquired Barclays Bankmark, a Barclays Bank subsidiary. The price was not disclosed.

Caird disposal

Caird Group has sold the main part of its dry waste division to Cleanaway for £542 million in cash and the repayment of £745,000 of debt.

Telfos move

Telfos Holdings, has sold Charles Clifford, Metallisation and Metallisation Service for £2.1 million in cash.

EC laws on safety at work to be extended

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MOST Britons would be delighted if 1992 was a year of peace and prosperity. The prospects of that, however, are not encouraging.

Take comfort, then, from the knowledge that the European Community has resolved to make 1992 European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. Fortunately, the Community has given us an extra two months to become accustomed to one of the world's least catchy names by decreeing that EYOSHAPAW will not start until March 1.

Beneath the unimpressive title is a serious message. The debate over Britain's unwillingness to adopt the European social charter has distracted attention from decisions by the Community on a raft of health and safety regulations.

Twenty-five Community directives on health and safety are scheduled to be adopted by Britain this year.

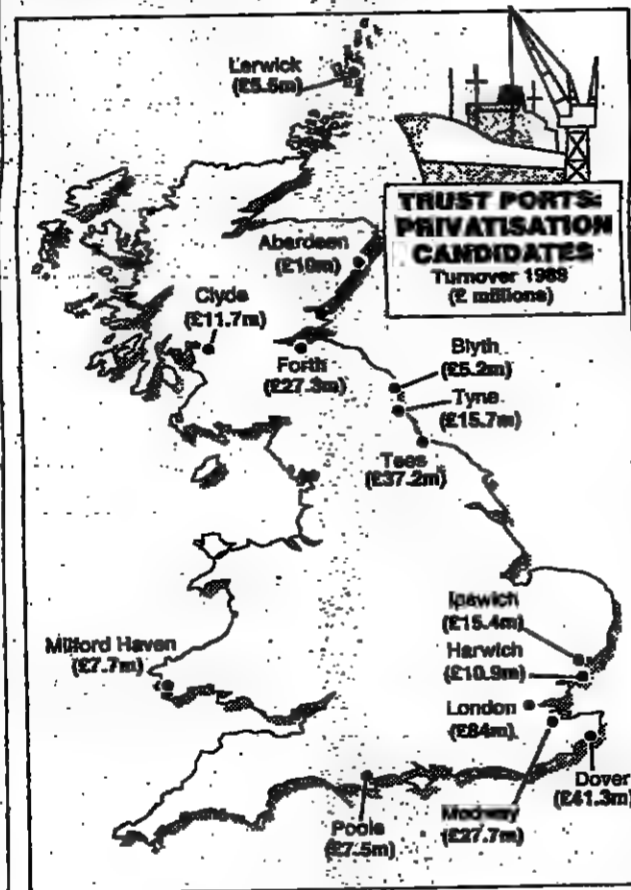
Legislation will introduce new standards governing display screen equipment, manual handling of loads, classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, biotechnology, protection of workers from carcinogens, and minimum requirements for every workplace.

Sir John Cullen, the chairman of Britain's Health and Safety Commission, gave warning of a "tremendous workload" for companies and safety regulators in 1992.

However, he pledged: "Although we are constrained by the need to implement the directives on time, we wish to ensure that the new regulations will be clear, avoid undue burdens and will positively promote health and safety. We will aim to allow the longest possible time between regulations being made and coming into force, to allow employers time to find out about them and adjust to the new requirements."

Britain's record on workplace health and safety already compares favourably with those of her largest EC partners. According to an analysis of 1990 figures by the Health and Safety Executive, fatal accidents in Britain were substantially lower than in France, Spain and Italy. Only in agriculture were deaths as commonplace. Fatal accidents in manufacturing and services were also lower in Britain than in West Germany, although non-fatal accidents were similar.

The report also highlighted the absence of a single body with responsibility for safety in Britain's partners, and the greater role played by insurance companies elsewhere in promoting safety practices. The HSE suggested that the lack of co-ordinated responsibility may have a bearing on the higher accident figures.



Talismanic year will work its magic by stealth

The European Commission will enter 1992 with 217 of its 282 internal market directives adopted by member states, and with the laggardly southern members slowly catching up the others in translating this legislation into national laws.

The year 1992, of course, has become a talisman for Europhiles; that is unfortunate, because the commission would have made the internal market programme clearer by attaching the 1993 label to it.

Since Lord Cockfield, the former British internal market commissioner, proposed the directives in his 1985 single market white paper, the object has been to get them all passed by the end of 1992. The unified market is still, officially, one year off.

The problem with the single market is that the bulk of its harmonising legislation is deathly dull. Other, more far-reaching aspects of EC politics, such as monetary union, take up most of the media's attention.

The Dutch presidency, for example, claims it has pushed through 31 internal market directives in the past six months; ask the man in the street which of these he remembers — ask an EC journalist even — and the reply might well be a shrug of the shoulders.

Most people will remember the Dutch presidency for the Maastricht summit, even though the lofty union issues discussed there will not come into effect for the best part of a decade. On the other hand, the single market — the idea that gave the union process momentum — is almost upon us.

Last month's final internal market council was no more memorable than any of those that went before. Through went those much-talked-

The maturing of Europe's single market in 1992 will bring all-pervasive changes, from airport terminals to waste dumps. Tom Walker reports

about laws harmonising boiler efficiency (a derogation for Britain here), speed limiters, electromagnetic compatibility and motorcycle type standards.

It is unfair to laugh these off. For motorcycle manufacturers, course, harmonising type standards is important; it means a machine can be brought to market more quickly.

Instead of having to get the various parts of a motorcycle technically approved in all 12 member states — a process that can take years — one type approval will in future be sufficient for a machine to be sold anywhere in the Community, with its 318 million consumers.

Baggage checks on journeys within the EC are disapproved of by ministers, so airport interiors might have to be redesigned. A non-life insurance directive went through too, promising lower insurance premiums in future because policies can be bought in any member state. From 1994, Greek motorists should be able to buy their car insurance in Britain.

Other single-market directives are still stuck, with little obvious scope for compromise. Ministers were at loggerheads over how to make food safer. Germany and Denmark both favour the single market irradiation directive, under no circumstances France's more sensitive palate will countenance.

The answer might be to drop the directive altogether. The commission has already had to accept defeat on 19 directives. Will our lives really

be any different because of the single market programme?

Consumer organisations believe harmonisation will bring lower prices. Although these have not filtered through yet, the predictions will probably prove correct in the long run. With car type standards in place, for example, Europe's car makers will no longer have to make small model changes for different member states. Consequent economies of scale should make tomorrow's "Euro-cars" cheaper.

Test Achats, a Belgian consumer organisation, recently estimated that food prices would come down by 1 or 2 per cent in the unified market; financial services, for the Belgian consumer, should become up to 16 per cent cheaper.

With a minimum rate of value-added tax (15 per cent) agreed at last between EC countries, there should be a general levelling of prices; a differential of 35 per cent between Belgium and Britain for a compact disc player, for example, is likely to narrow. Test Achats is now calling for the commission to put through a directive enshrining a form of "consumers' charter" that will help the customer benefit from the 1992 programme.

To a certain extent, the commission has already acted in this area: Philippe Wacker, a partner in Wacker & Bates, a European affairs consultancy based in Brussels, says that one of the few areas in which people will be aware of change is in their rights.

"People will find that in general

they have two weeks to pull out of a contract once they have signed," he says. The directive enshrining such reflection clauses should shake up the time-share and travel industries. Cross-border mail-order shopping should become easier too; prosecution of a supplier will become possible in the country of purchase as well as in that of sale.

M Wacker identifies waste management as another area in which change will be highly visible.

"The emphasis on recycling will become much stronger," he says. "This will be very visible — no more car dumps, for example."

The single market will also witness a boom in the labelling of products. Eco-labelling of foods produced in an environmentally friendly way will become commonplace.

After 1992, the commission might introduce health warnings on alcoholic drinks, an industry it has been strangely loth to lay hands on so far. Many of these changes, however, will not be seen until 1993 at the earliest. "For the man in the street, I don't think 1992 is going to be a very exciting year," M Wacker says. "The single market is a very gradual process."

Another variable, of course, is the rate of uptake of single market laws by member states. Denmark still leads the way, with 93 per cent of the 1992 programme already in its national law.

Britain scores more than 80 per cent at the moment and recent commission research shows that traditional sloths, such as Italy and Greece, are catching up. Italy, for which Brussels has always been a grey area, has breached the 50 per cent barrier, and both Spain and Ireland have pushed through 15 or 16 directives since July.



Britain's pioneering Europhile: Lord Cockfield

CHANNEL FIVE: THE PERSONALITIES AND FINANCING

Blind man's bluff with a touch of paranoia

Obsessive use of paper shredders and debugging devices has become a prerequisite of participation in any blind-bid competition for a television licence. Indeed, just one year after television executives began their top-secret bid preparations for the 16 ITV licences awarded last October, another cast of secretive would-be TV impresarios have gone behind closed doors to finalise their plans for the new Channel 5.

Programme plans and partners are being kept a closely guarded secret by the Channel 5 ringleaders, whose identity, however, has become obvious at various industry conferences dedicated to assessing the very viability of the new terrestrial channel.

"This will be far more secretive than the ITV franchise round. Everything about Channel 5 is new, so no one wants anyone else to copy their ideas," said Chris Rowley, the former Thames executive and IBA head of planning behind the FiveTV consortium.

"We're proposing a mixture, we won't say what it is, of local and national programmes. It

will have a different sense of style, it will be lively and different, not just another ITV or BBC," Mr Rowley promised.

Only two of FiveTV's backers have been revealed — Citytv, the highly successful Toronto local station, and Primetime, the independent producers — but Mr Rowley said that deals either have been or are about to be concluded with many other investors.

"Put it this way, we have the only sensible business plan. By the time applications are due, we will be the only applicant," Mr Rowley said. Indeed, rumours of mergers between the main Channel 5 players are rife, and there is speculation that new ITV licencees and those, such as Thames, that lost out last October, will emerge in a consortium.

The other main consortium is being led by Justin Dukes, the former Channel 4 managing director whose efforts together with United Artists and RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, failed to displace HTV in the October ITV franchise auction.

He will not disclose his partners' identities, other than to

Melinda Wittstock sought out would-be impresarios for the new channel, but found them in highly secretive mood

say that discussions are continuing with other investors. "We're still engaged in our feasibility studies in light of the ITC [Independent Television Commission] guidance. The Channel 5 they are recommending is closer to ITV than we expected, but the rewards are neither as easy nor as obvious as those of ITV. Put it this way, no one has burgled my office yet, but we're still going ahead," Mr Dukes said.

Phil Redmond's Mersey Television, the maker of *Brookside* and *Grange Hill* which failed to oust Granada, is also a possible CS bidder. Mr Redmond, an initial proponent of the new channel but somewhat discouraged by its economics, said he was talking to other would-be investors but would not decide whether to proceed for a few months yet.

"A lot of deep-pocketed me-

dia players just don't want to play the game. Why not stick around and buy it up after someone else has gone bankrupt starting it up? I'll be doing a lot of thinking over my Christmas pudding, but I wonder why bother with Channel 5 if you could do the same thing for just £4 million a year on the Astra satellite," Mr Redmond said.

Indeed Channel 5 will eat up so much investment in its first five years that most investors will want to limit their exposure with small stakes, forcing mergers in the coming months of various would-be bidders. But such deals will involve compromises on programme plans, as many players have rather different ideas about what programmes the channel should run.

Leslie Hill, the chief executive of Central Television cur-

rently considering participating in a bid for Channel 5, says the channel could only work as a cheap and cheerful Sky One-type light entertainment service.

"Mr Redmond favours a 'finely tuned national commercial channel' utilising a mix of low-cost mass appeal productions for a national audience at peaktime and public access programming for a local audience during the day and late at night. 'It has to offer the audience something they are not getting elsewhere. A cheap and cheerful ITV2 would be a waste of the airwaves,' he said.

Channel X, the independent production company, run by Jonathan Ross and Mike Bolland, the former Channel 4 deputy director, thinks Channel 5 should run high-quality, original material aimed at 25 to 40-year-olds.

FiveTV, originally proposing that Channel 5 be a network of as many as 33 local city TV affiliates, has now scaled down its ambitions due to high start-up costs. "We're not going to be a string of tiny

stations, but we will have a city feel," Mr Rowley said. This meant starting with four or five local opt-outs and expanding the number as revenue allowed. Programming would comprise a mix of news, films and music using a similar formula to Toronto's Citytv.

Moses Znaimer, Citytv's founder and Mr Rowley's partner, gives another hint: "Citytv is not about shows, but what I call flow. The channel has its own character, which the people of Toronto think of as their home channel."

Mr Dukes, who does not think local opt-outs are viable, plans a purely national channel with "a lot of acquired material, but good material that people want to see", including repeats of high-quality dramas and programmes bought in from Europe and America.

He said he would spend less than £100 million a year on programmes until the channel is making a healthy profit, compared to the £700 million total ITV bill. "It's not cheap and cheerful; it's interesting and economic, something that complements the other channels," Mr Dukes said.



Leslie Hill: cheap and cheerful entertainment

Few runners in race for 'licence to lose money'

High start-up costs mean there will be no re-run of the Channel 3 scramble
Martin Waller says

TELEVISION industry figures are spending time at their desks during the year-end break, grappling with yet another TV franchise round.

This time, the Independent Television Commission, the industry watchdog, will be looking for bidders brave enough to set up from scratch the new Channel 5. It is to start broadcasting no later than the end of 1994.

The franchise battle will take place along the same lines as the bidding for Channel 3 that resulted in the triumphs and disappointments of last October. One thing, however, is different. There are unlikely to be as many disappointed applicants.

Industry notables such as Michael Grade, head of Channel 4, have written off the new service as a licence to lose money. Luxembourg's CLT, owner of Radio Luxembourg, has pulled out of the race after assessing start-up costs at £500 million.

Much of this scepticism can be put down to natural rivalry and bitchiness within the hothouse world of TV, and to the peculiarly English habit of denigrating any new venture, particularly one in the media. Channel 4 itself was written off as a failure even after broadcasting began; more recently, TV-am was given little chance of surviving its financially troubled first few months.

Channel 5 certainly starts with enormous disadvantages, most of them technical. The 33 transmitters are already available or soon will be, but the successful bidder will have to re-tune or modify, at its own cost, an unspecified number of home videos and computers that could be affected by transmissions.

Most viewers will need new aerials, and at least one of the potential broadcasters is toying with the idea of handing these out free to boost initial audiences. Even so, Essex Girl and Colonel Blimp need not apply: the transmission network covers just three quarters of the UK, missing out such prosperous areas as that stretching northeast of London into East Anglia, and most of the south coast. The only way to reach these areas would be to broadcast by satellite, which immediately bumps up the cost.

How the new channel will be financed is a detail left to the bidders. Advertising starts next month and applications are due by April. The winner will be chosen, and the licence awarded, by August, presumably using the same massed phalanx of fax machines that were such a feature of the last franchise round. One of two of the names will probably be familiar from last time.

One option in the commission's draft document for Channel 5 but dismissed by most potential franchise-holders is a network of local

stations. Most programming would be common to them all but each station would produce some local material. The main drawback to this would be the high cost, which is not reflected in the tendering process.

The commission proposes coverage of not less than 40 per cent of the country, a percentage that might have to be relaxed if there are not enough bidders. Nick Ward, media analyst at Smith New Court, a stockbroker, says Thames TV, a loser in the last franchise round, could be the strongest bidder but only if the company fails to find a good price for its planned output elsewhere.

Neil Blackley, at James Capel, another broker, thinks the successful bidder is likely to be a consortium, possibly including Thames and various Continental media groups — with deep pockets, given the high cost of the operation. He points out that Channel 5 will probably give access to about three quarters of Britain's population, compared with, for instance, BSkyB's 8 per cent. That must give it some force of attraction for investors.

The commission recognises the financial constraints on the operator, at least during the early years of the ten-year franchise period. It has established a sliding scale for programme content.

The four mandatory broadcasting strands — news, current affairs, children's



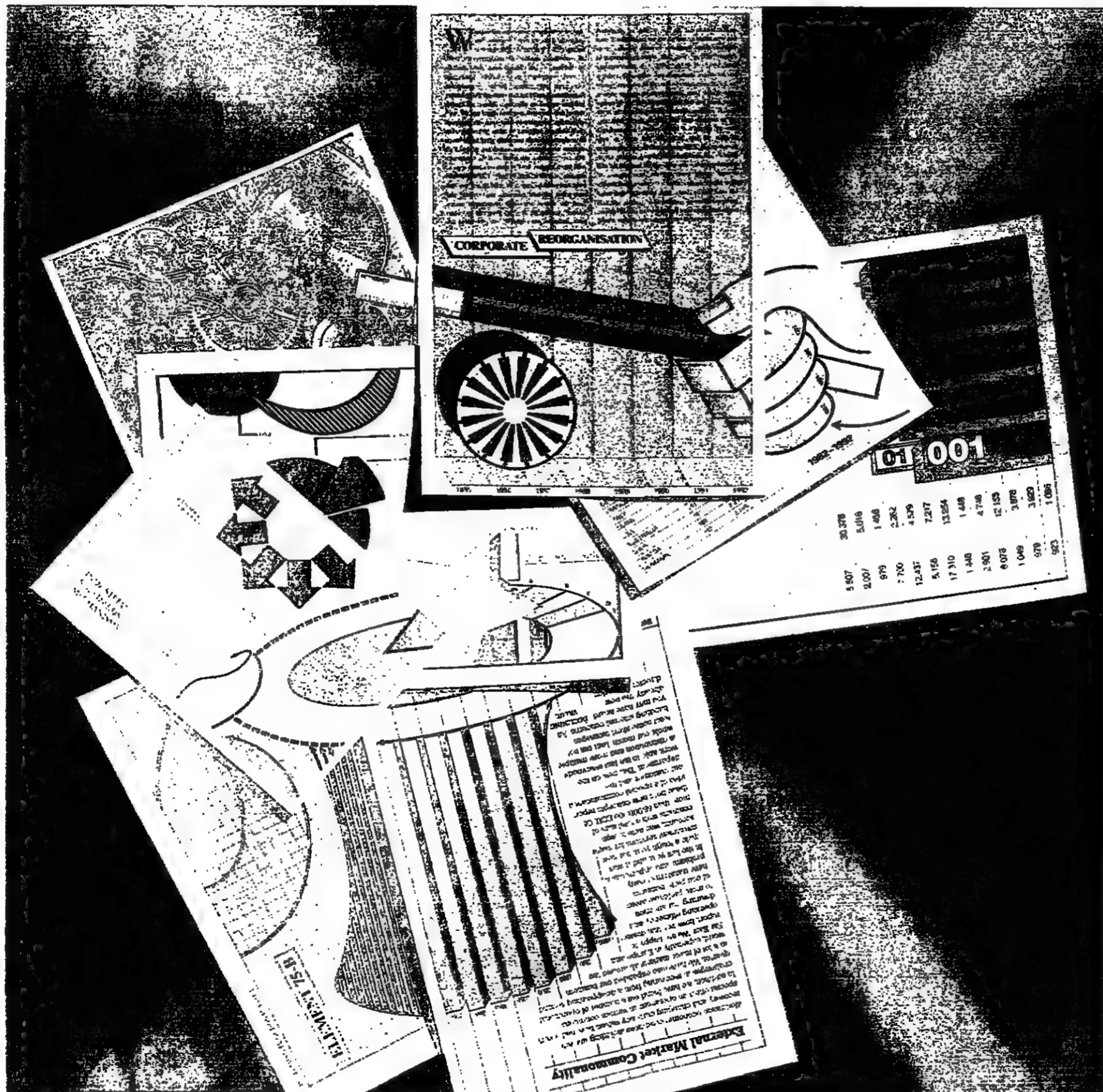
Grade: highly sceptical programmes and religious broadcasts — will be phased in gradually.

The draft lays down guidelines on the sort of programming expected, setting out another six optional strands.

Among potential bidders, a split is emerging between those who want more of the same — a service pitched between the two BBC channels and ITV — and those offering an entirely different approach. This would include, for example, financing based at least in part on subscription fees for premium movies as well as a regional network.

The commission expects bidders to satisfy a "quality threshold" and to submit a cash bid, the highest being the winner, but there will again be an "exceptional circumstances" let-out to allow the licence to go to a lower bidder. That means the confusion surrounding the Channel 3 franchise round is likely to be repeated. How far that will deter bidders remains to be seen.

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HEWLETT PACKARD

THE POSSIBILITY MADE REALITY.

Much ado about nothing much

These are trying times for investors aiming to read some deep significance into the strong movements in London share prices over the past two weeks. They have been led to believe by the more imaginative of the media that the City has been licking its lips in anticipation of good times to come, or that the markets have been cheered by the Prime Minister's seasonal message.

These are thin times in the markets, with many dealers taking leave when they know there will be little business to justify a return from the ski slopes or a departure from the fireside. Prices are volatile as reluctant market-makers adjust to protect their books. Hence a 10 per cent rise in a substantial stock such as Wellcome on a mere 2 million shares traded. That is no indicator of a substantial shift of investor opinion about the company or a judgment on the fundamentals of its business.

The stock market has been inward looking, far more concerned with technical book positions and the interplay of stock futures with the physical market in shares than the economy. The fragility of it all was amply shown yesterday by the 37 point rise in early trading followed later by a fall that wiped away all the gains and more as soon as Wall Street opened lower. The serious business of investment will not resume until the City is fully staffed again and a consensus reached about the likely course of events this year.

Typically, the market's eyes will be on the Prudential, whose heavyweight decisions to buy the market have been a widely followed January feature of recent years. While January is usually a buoyant month for shares, attempting to read some enduring economic message into price movements at this time of year is apt to be a fruitless if not painful business.

Eastern message

The media event of yesterday, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, persuading a disbelieving Britain that recovery is upon us, underlined again the subservience of the Old Lady to the demands of Downing Street. The fulfillment of any yearnings Mr Leigh-Pemberton might have for Bundesbank-like independence have plainly to wait. But an awesome display of central bank independence, which might easily go unnoticed in gloom-shrouded Britain, could be witnessed over the Christmas holiday in Jerusalem. There, Jacob Frenkel, the new governor of Bank of Israel, demonstrated how much freedom for manoeuvre the head of a central bank can enjoy in a parliamentary democracy.

Faced with the cost burden of mass immigration from the former Soviet empire, Israel has met firm American resistance to granting credit guarantees for \$10 billion of loans. Washington wants a more compliant Israel at the Middle East peace conference tables in return for financial favours. An end to funding for Jewish settlements on Arab land would also please the Americans.

In spite of the fact that the fragile Israeli coalition government's future was on the line, Mr Frenkel openly urged the politicians to curb the budget deficit to 5.5 per cent of gdp, instead of the 6.2 per cent approved by the cabinet. He argued that this would contain inflation, draw the teeth of American criticism, and remove the risk of loan guarantees being withheld.

A pilgrimage to the Holy City might be in order for the governor's political masters. That way he might be granted more independence before European monetary union arrives.

Employers have almost a free hand in running pension funds. New rules are needed to stop abuse, says Sean Hand, a law firm partner

Spare a thought for members of the Mirror Group pension funds. Imagine your outrage if your home were burgled and your possessions stolen. You have had little fear of burglary because only recently you installed a security system. On challenging the manufacturers of the system about its failure, you are told that your case is exceptional. The system has worked well in the past.

On further enquiry, you discover you have no redress against the manufacturer (who enjoys statutory protection) and you cannot recover the stolen property, because it has been bought by persons acting in good faith. Worst of all, owing to a misunderstanding with the direct debit mandate, your property insurance cover was withdrawn before the burglary.

You approach the security industry's trade association, to be told that your security system was based on sound engineering principles. Even if there were small imperfections, the association would not disturb everyone else who had fitted the system by suggesting that it was ineffective.

Almost 25 million people in the UK — more than half the adult population — are members or beneficiaries of pension schemes. About 19 million belong to occupational (employer-sponsored) schemes and the remainder have taken out personal pension plans. By 1990, the value of UK pension funds had reached £254 billion. In that year, a survey of the largest 100 occupational pension schemes showed that the smallest had assets worth £501 million; the figure for the largest was £12 billion.

Homes apart, pension funds are the only substantial investments that most people will make. However, despite the huge wealth of some funds and their immense importance to so many people, they are the least regulated of all investments.

After the Mirror Group disaster, the prime minister said in exasperation to the House of Commons: "We have greatly tightened the provisions of pension fund members over recent years. Nothing, of course, can be complete proof against criminality." One can sympathise. The question that must be going through many people's minds is why did no one notice what was going on in the Mirror Group pension funds in time to prevent the huge losses that have been reported?

The answer is simple. No external body had any responsibility for monitoring those immediately involved in managing and investing the funds. In short, where trustees (for whatever reason) are unable to do their duty, there is nothing to stand between an avaricious em-



Campaigning for company pensioners' rights: Sean Hand, of Cameron Markby Hewitt

ployer and the company pension fund.

In the past few weeks, supporters of trusts have been peddling the myth that such arrangements are effective in separating pension funds' assets from those of the sponsoring employers and, therefore, in safeguarding members' benefits.

Experience indicates that the medieval machinery of trust law works because of the integrity of many pension scheme trustees, rather than because of its intrinsic strength. Pension trusts repay close examination, because they are odd creatures.

Schemes such as those established by Mirror Group are written in trust because, provided they meet requirements laid down by the Inland Revenue, there are valuable tax concessions.

The employer can mostly appoint the trustees, who might include himself, directors of the parent company or, for that matter, anybody he chooses. He determines how much he wishes to pay into the scheme. He can structure it in such a way that the trustees may exercise no discretion without his consent, and are

obliged to carry out his decisions. The employer appoints an actuary, to advise on the funding rate necessary to provide the desired benefits at the appropriate future date. The actuary is not accountable.

He has a limited statutory reporting function and relies almost totally on information passed to him by the employer and/or the trustees. The employer frequently appoints the auditors and legal advisers, too, though their fees might well be paid out of the fund. Again, these experts are not, in practice, accountable to the scheme's beneficiaries. They might be precluded from advising the beneficiaries or the trustees if serious differences of interest with the employer arise.

It is not obligatory for either the trustees or the employer to obtain advice from them — or indeed, from anyone else — before making an investment decision. That is for the trustees to decide. However, a pension trust's greatest peculiarity is that it is not set up as an expression of the employer's benevolence. It gives effect to a contractual promise made by the employer to his employees.

The assets of most big pension

funds are invested by professional fund managers, but remain legally vested in the trustees. There is no formal control over the appointment of pension fund trustees.

The medieval machine, however, is not all bad. Beneficiaries have some legally protected rights. They are entitled to:

- Inspect the pension scheme accounts and other trust documents;
- Receive full and accurate information about trust property;
- Have the terms of the trust enforced;
- Apply to a court or to the pensions ombudsman to determine questions arising from the execution of the trust.

The reality, however, in schemes where abuse is practised, is that inquisitive members can be stonewalled, discredited or simply out-gunned by the employer with his legal and actuarial arsenal.

Given the importance of pension funds to their beneficiaries, one might have thought that these would have some say in investment strategy, or at least be given the courtesy of up to date information. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The law does not recognise any

right of beneficiaries to participate in the investment of final salary schemes. No matter how large the surpluses, members who leave such schemes before retiring are entitled in law only to the cash equivalent of their accrued benefits. A man in his forties could receive about half the pension that might have been paid if his transfer value had been increased at the discretion of the employer or the trustees.

Trustees may take decisions on disposal of surpluses — with the blessing, and indeed at the behest, of the Inland Revenue — without notifying beneficiaries. I will be submitting evidence to the parliamentary select committee on social security in the new year. I believe a government-sponsored survey is needed to determine the extent and type of pension fund abuse in Britain, and my firm has offered to organise it. Pending the outcome of such a survey, proposals for reform must be tentative. I offer the following:

1. Either the powers of an existing regulatory body should be increased to cover the management and investment of occupational pension schemes or a new regulatory body should be formed with powers to protect threatened pension fund assets.
2. Trustees of occupational pension schemes or directors/officers of corporate trustees should be required to satisfy "fit and proper person" criteria.
3. There should be strict supervision of the investment of pension fund assets by the regulatory body: those handling such assets should be obliged to satisfy themselves (for example, by actuarial certification) that the investments are proper.
4. Compulsory insurance of trustees is needed, together with bonding of all third parties handling pension fund assets.
5. Employers should be prohibited from being trustees.
6. Random audits on pension fund investments should be conducted by a government-appointed watchdog, with powers to take appropriate protective action if the need should arise.
7. There should be greater accountability to beneficiaries, including pensioners and deferred pensioners.
8. Pensioners' benefits should be retained within occupational schemes only where liabilities are fully underwritten by separate insurance policies, otherwise such benefits should be bought out with insurance companies of pensioners' choice.
9. Schemes above a specified size should appoint independent trustees, accountable to the appropriate regulatory authority and to beneficiaries, and responsible for day-to-day monitoring.

The lesson of the Mirror Group disaster, and of many other instances of pension fund abuse, is that we must have the humility to admit that the current system, despite its pedigree, has shortcomings. Courage is needed to identify and remove them.

□ The author is a partner in Cameron Markby Hewitt, a London firm of solicitors.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Stolern rides again

LIONEL Stolern, a Frenchman and a friend of the late Robert Maxwell, has once again risen to the forefront of French business affairs by playing a key role in the settlement of a mud-slinging court case brought against L'Oreal, the French cosmetics company, by Jean Frydman, a former Parisian employee. Frydman claimed L'Oreal had dispersed with his services as an executive so as not to fall foul of the anti-Jewish Arab boycott. Stolern, a minister for labour when Valéry Giscard d'Estaing was France's centrist president, but who turned socialist in 1988, had his fortunes revived by Robert Maxwell last May when, on the sacking of socialist prime minister Michel Rocard and his government, he lost his portfolio. Within hours of Stolern ceasing to be a minister, Robert Maxwell made him economics overlord of *The European*. Despite his Paris base, Stolern, aged 54, also became economics adviser to the Romanian prime minister, Petre Roman. But with Roman's resignation on October 1 and Maxwell's subsequent death, his luck appeared to have run out. Until, that is, he emerged wearing his one remaining hat, as president of the Franco-Israeli Chamber of Commerce to help resolve the high profile "L'Oreal-Frydman Affair". And the settlement of the affair? The promise of an enquiry into the working of the Arab boycott by an independent French figure and which presumably means a whole lot more work for Stolern.

PERHAPS Christmas sales were so bad, they are best forgotten. The Woolworth store in Yeovil, Somerset, removed its Christmas decorations on Christmas eve. It then immediately began offering for sale items reminiscent of another festive occasion... Easter eggs.

Trust them

THE old year ended on an exhausted but jubilant note for Training Trust, the charity which organises an annual team challenge in which British companies try to raise as much money as they can for Romanian orphans. The year's contest, which ran from December 11 to 19, raised £100,000 and threw up its usual array of bizarre stunts. Including the world's biggest Christmas card, a giant Christmas pudding and a collection of pink elephants. The Danum Hotel in Doncaster collected as many Christmas puddings as it could find and turned them into a 50lb monster. Gwynedd Health Authority created a 52ft long Christmas card, flown by helicopter to its hospitals in its area. West

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS



Midlands Fire Service

shipped five large pink inflatable elephants to France, Spain, Romania, Portugal and Ireland, while Unipart, which makes components for the motor trade, took a more direct approach and shipped a truckload of supplies to Romania. But the booby prize must surely go to the two employees of Elstons, a software company in Leicester, who dressed up in gorilla suits and spent a night in a cage in their local zoo.

Booby prize

BARCLAYS de Zoete Wedd's smaller companies research team has decided to test its clients with a festive quiz about some of the shares it follows. The questions are far less exciting than the prizes: a bottle of champagne or an all expenses paid evening with Andrew Holland, a lively member of the team that is ranked second in Enel's ratings. A cryptic note adds: "The rest of the team accepts no responsibility nor has any sympathy for anyone opting for the laurel!"

Forward to history

THE new year has ushered in the final ignominy for the late Robert Maxwell. For the first time in nine months, his name is no longer on the masthead of the *Daily News*, the paper he bought with such triumphant glee last year and which made the Big Apple welcome him as a hero. The paper has also cancelled his slogan "Forward with New York," which he forced it to introduce in place of New York's Picture Newspaper. In a page two editorial, Jim Wilkie, the paper's editor and publisher, explains that the

Maxwell words were "an admirable sentiment to be sure, but not the true reflection of the *Daily News* personality. The tone's a little too heavy, too imperial." Just like the man, many New Yorkers were perhaps thinking. Wilkie continued: "We're reclaiming an informal title we've had for years, one that says clearly what we are and what we will be for a long time: New York's Hometown newspaper."

Suit symphony

GIVEN the plight of most retailers, staff at the new Moss Bros flagship store in Covent Garden, London, could not believe their luck when, a few days before Christmas, they received a request for 60 tuxedos. Their joy, however, turned to frenzy when the 60 men began to arrive to specify their individual requirements. It quickly became clear that off-the-peg garments, even with one or two minor alterations, would not do. For the 60 men in question were members of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. The cellist needed particularly long trousers, so that they would appear the correct length when he sat down with his legs wide apart, the violinists wanted wide jacks with long sleeves so that the right amount of cuff still showed when their arms were raised, while the percussionist complained that whenever he played the cymbals, his head disappeared beneath his shoulders. Moss Bros' solution was to cut deeper armholes in the jacket and advise him not to button it up.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Two tax mistakes that have triggered recession

From Mr C.D. Cobbett

Sir, Your correspondent Barrie Milns (Letters, Business News, December 31) casts doubt on the wisdom of increasing income tax relief on mortgages for home buyers.

The British economy is in dire straits as the direct result of two fiscal measures. One adversely affects the motor industry by punitive taxation on the use of company cars less than four years old. The other, much more seriously, discourages home ownership throughout the price range.

The Government is relying on a consumer-led revival of the economy, starting with

the housing market. That market thrived, without government interference, when tax relief on interest was restricted only to house purchase for owner occupation, without regard to amount or price. The market was destabilised by government foolishness when the cessation of double tax relief on mortgages was advertised.

The economy will be revived by restoring confidence in the housing market. There can be no danger of an explosion of house prices when a recession coupled with rising unemployment are so deeply disturbing. Mobility of lab-

our is greatly assisted by the ability to sell one home and buy another.

It is no solution to make many more homes available to rent. Only special tax concessions as in the Business Expansion Scheme make such developments viable. The maximum ceiling value for such properties is £85,000, nationwide. Does your correspondent need to have that limitation explained to him?

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. COBBETT,
14 Elms Avenue,
Lilliput,
Poole, Dorset.

Cost of distorting the homes market

From D.J. Lewis

Sir, The current government intervention into the housing market to attempt to arrest the impact on prices of sales by mortgages in possession, is a predictable yet deeply unfortunate further step to continue subsidies and thus distortions within the housing market.

In articles and leader comment, you rightly state that lower house prices would benefit everyone in real terms. Those who bought at the top of the market and paid artificially inflated prices are undoubtedly suffering unfortunate consequences, but there are other welfare safety nets to minimise such distress. Such benefits should, of course, be based strictly on overall need, not merely the specific problem of inability to meet mortgage interest commitments.

Subsidies, government or private, are usually perceived as lowering prices. The fact is, however, that lower prices increase demand that increases prices elsewhere in the economic chain.

Subsidies on houses through capital and income tax exemptions and relief reduce the cost to the consumer and therefore increase the demand, which in the end increases prices.

Similarly, artificial rent controls and subsidies reduce the price of leased accommodation below the level to give a fair return on cost. Thus, the supply becomes limited and the price of alternative owner-occupied property is increased.

The current proposal to artificially stop part of the supply of houses reaching the market continues the process of lowering the actual or apparent annual price of occupation and thus artificially increases the price that purchasers can afford to pay for houses (or in practice restrains the drop).

The rise in residential prices through the Seventies and Eighties at about double the rate of inflation was unsustainable, even if politically helpful. It created an appear-

ance of artificial wealth and encouraged a propensity to borrow of such intensity that the inevitable downturn that followed is of such severity.

The long awaited adjustment must be allowed to take its course without further government-inspired distortion so that average prices and costs in this country may return to a sustainable level in relation to average incomes.

We will know when a normal market has returned when predictions and indexes are published that refer to the relationship between average incomes and average annual interest payments, not between incomes and prices. Capital values are created by actual and estimated income levels, not the other way around.

Yours faithfully,
D.J. LEWIS, FRICS,
David Lewis & Partners,
Catherine House,
76 Gloucester Place,
W1.

Poll tax fiasco

From Mr G. Dunn

Sir, I agree with Michael Coultas (Business News, December 24) who wonders which world the Adam Smithians inhabit. When public companies make colossal financial blunders they are liquidated and after the poll tax fiasco, one would have thought the Adam Smith Institute would have at least kept a very low profile for many years to come.

Instead here is its director popping up with a crude version of one of the many half-baked ideas which were widely discussed and discredited in the Thirties. Just as the poll tax would never have been perpetrated if Adam Smith's principles of taxation in *The Wealth of Nations* had been followed, may I suggest a study of, say, Major C.H. Douglas's works on *Social Credit* and the experiment in Alberta in 1935 which would give a perspective on a scheme similar to the one proposed.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON DUNN,
7 Achilube,
Ullapool, Wester Ross.

Name blunder

From Margot Owles

Sir, My husband and I bought BT shares jointly, and his name appeared on the share certificate first. The registration form for the new issue arrived, of course, in his name. My husband died on October 10. When completing the form I crossed out his name, substituted my own, and added a note to the effect that he had died on October 10.

I signed the application and I signed the cheque. The share certificate arrived yesterday — giving his name as the registered holder. Yours truly,
MARGOT OWLES,
Greystones, Cheddar Road,
Wedmore, Somerset.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

STOCK MARKET

Boots, down 4p at 425p, is expected to start the ball rolling. **SmithKline Beecham** continued to respond to last

SmithKline Beecham continued to respond to last

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

inflammatory drug, in America. The shares finished 4p up at 900p, having briefly touched 950p. Rival **Glaxo** go from strength to strength, adding 24p to an all-time high of £11.24 as investors became increasingly excited

RISES:		Fisons	336p (+10p)
Guinness	519p (+11p)	Hawker Siddeley	751p (+17p)
Royal	251p (+11p)	Sarco Group	574p (+18p)
		FALLS:	

Bank Save	354p (+10p)
Bowater	673p (+10p)
William Cook	276p (+12p)

Closing Prices..Page 23

The banks saw the bulk of their gains wiped out as Sir John Quinon, the chairman of Barclays Bank, issued a warning on Channel 4's *Business Daily* that the provisions

The insurance composites achieved surprisingly generous rises as investors turned to the sector because of its recovery potential.

MICHAEL CLARK

The Dow Jones industrial average was 9.83 points lower at 3,159 in morning trading after falling as low as 3,152. In the broader market, declining issues outnumbered rising shares by nine to four.

Higher blue chips in particular helped the Dax to its 23.90-point closing gain, although light profit-taking in the course of the day had nibbled at the higher prices.

BTR Warrants 1995/96	53	-2
Baile Gifford Japan Wt	118	...
Bristol Water Non-Voting £1	405	...
Bickish Telecom New (335)	122½	+ ½
Burn Stewart Dist 10p (140)	142	...
Bute Mining Warrants	2	...
Capital Industries 1p	75	...
Deacons Korea Tr (100)	88	...
Deacons Korea Warrants	20	...

JIB Group 10p (195)	195	44
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (30%)	180	...
Lowes (R) Warrants	3	...
M & G Income Inv Cap 1p (28)	18	...
M & G Income Inv Grated Uv	62½	...
M & G Income Inv Inc 1p (44)	44½	...
M & G Inc Inv Pack Uv (100)	99	...
M & G Income Zero Div Pt	37	...
Multinet Warrants	1	...

Schroder Korea Fund 1c	526	...
Schroder Korea Fund Warrants	534	...
Seafield Resources (60)	58	-1
Simpsons of Cornhill Sp (50)	33	...
St Davids Zero Div Pf (100)	103 1/2	+1

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Inventors 'need national network'

BY DEREK HARRIS

BIG improvements in support for inventors are called for in a study by Business in the Community (BITC), which especially urges the creation of a national network that innovators could readily turn to for help. BITC argues that there is a strong case for a subsidy scheme, funded either by government or industry, to give initial help to inventors, possibly repayable from royalties.

It points out that affordable help from professionals can be invaluable and it praises the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, which operates a free initial 45-minute consultation, advising on protection of intellectual property.

BITC's aim has been to look at the position of the first-time inventor or innovator in a small business, prompted by its association with the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation scheme. It has drawn on the experience of the year-old BP Innovation Line scheme. Line (local investment networking company), which already has wide coverage in Britain, points the route to a national support network: it offers innovators free and impartial professional advice and other forms of help, including funding finance.

Line agencies aim to build up a portfolio of local investors, willing to put up anything from £5,000 to

£250,000 for early-stage technical business ideas. BITC urges the creation of a panel system to monitor the progress of innovations. It could also give advice on what can be a tricky issue: whether an innovator should go for business start-up or licensing the idea.

The study, *Support for Inventors and Innovators in the UK*, includes a list of sources of help for inventors. Free copies are available at Business in the Community, 227A City Road, London, EC1V 1LX. Telephone: 071-253 3716.

MR FRIDAY



"It's my new year's resolution — to take Europe by storm!"

Tale of the Heal Farm hampers

BY WIDGET FINN

ANNE Petch has an end-of-the-year peak in her farm business because seasonal hampers account for 30 per cent of her annual turnover, but she also sells traditional meats, using pork from her own herd of old-fashioned breeds of pigs. These are butchered, salted and smoked at Heal Farm, Umberleigh, Devon — but only for now, as EC regulations threaten change. Mrs Petch was given her first pig at 15. When she married, she started keeping Gloucestershire Old Spots, familiar from nursery rhyme illustrations.

She paid £150 for a sow in 1974: the price is probably less today. She had seven rare breeds five years later, but the cost of feeding them natural ingredients came to more than the cheques that she received from the local abattoir. Commercially, the pigs were the wrong shape and too hairy for modern fashions, but Mrs Petch knew that the flavour of the meat was outstanding.

In 1979, she was faced with the choice of reducing the herd or marketing the meat herself. She found a local butcher to make up sausages to traditional recipes, but demand soon outstripped his capacity. By selling some to her husband, Mark, and her husband, Richard, raised the cash to convert the farm buildings into a butchery, packaging unit, brine room and smoker.

Mrs Petch has other business interests, so his wife runs the

farming operation. Heal Farm has no advertising budget. The mailing list of regular customers has been built up from personal recommendation. In 1981, an article in a national newspaper attracted 14,000 inquiries and it took Mrs Petch and her staff seven months to complete the responses.

The Heal Farm herd of 35 sows and three boars are tended by two herdsmen. The total staff — about ten, together with students who help in the Christmas rush — is unchanged from the early days of the business. "But," Mrs Petch says, "we've learnt to work more efficiently. As a mail-order business, which is a bespoke service, our success depends on good administration."

Six years ago, she marketed the first Heal Farm hamper. They contain an entire Christmas dinner, from home-cured bacon and pork sausages for breakfast through to Dorset Vinney cheese and handmade chocolates after the turkey (which is free-range) and Christmas pudding.

Mrs Petch says: "It's nice to be able to buy from other small, quality businesses. We include a number of local products like the giant honeycomb from our neighbour, Paddy Wallace, and a goat's cheese in olive oil, which was developed specially for us."

Such attention to quality and detail does not come cheap and the hampers cost £195 or £390, including courier delivery. Heal Farm has a turnover of £300,000 a year.



Christmas fare: Mrs Petch with some home produce

BRIEFINGS

Solotec, which is the south London Training and Enterprise Council (Tec), reports good initial results from a long-term project aimed at helping businesses to manage change and to grow. A translation services company in Croydon saw gross profit margins up as much as 20 per cent on many transactions with better team work emerging at board level and staff more motivated.

The project, known as Orion 3, is aimed at companies in the Tec's area that are big enough to have a management team in place. A programme usually lasts about a year. Up to £15,000 towards consultancy costs is possible under the scheme. Details from the Tec on freephone 0800 800 222.

A bi-monthly newsletter aimed at helping professional advisers to small businesses, particularly on sources of finance, has been started by Graham Banock & Partners, the London consultant that specialises in small and medium-sized enterprises. The first issue compares bank charges in the UK and Germany, concluding that British banks score rather better than German ones.

Businesses with a turnover of £250,000 a year can ask international factors, a subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, to provide a free breakdown of the savings that the business could make through using its factoring services. Details: David Richardson or 0273 21211.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

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Good Profile has excellent chance to underline class

THE bookmakers are unlikely to be generous about Good Profile in the Harcus Scottish Juvenile Hurdle at Edinburgh this afternoon, but even the most optimistic of backers would be hard pressed to oppose him.

Good Profile was bought for 60,000 guineas at the Newmarket Autumn Sales, and has already gone some way to recouping that outlay. A winner at Wetherby in November, he proved himself to be one of the leading juveniles seen out this season when winning the Female Hurdle at Chepstow last month.

That performance, beating None So Brave by two lengths, would have made him an automatic favourite for the Triumph Hurdle in March.

However his trainer, George Moore, has already crossed Cheltenham off the agenda. As he explained: "It's a very tough race and I think they're too young for it. He'll probably go to Liverpool."

His rivals have not shown anything to match his form and he should prevail, although his odds will no doubt reflect that.

For my nap, at a more rewarding price, I take to Flight Hill, from Mr. Moore's in-form yard, in the Glengoyne Highland Malt

Tamersia Series Novices Chase Qualifier

Jumping fluency, or perhaps the lack of it, has been the problem for Flight Hill. The eight-year-old has made mistakes at critical moments in races which have cost him dearly.

However he seemed to have got his act together at Sedgefield last time out when beating Lady Remainder by 20 lengths. Another clear round should enable him to win, probably from Wayside Boy, who has yet to repeat the form of his first run this season when second to Nineotus at Sedgefield.



Moore has Liverpool aim for Good Profile

Mr. Revely can complete a double with Wellwoodthink in the First of Many National Hunt Flat Race. The six-year-old was an impressive winner at Doncaster and can triumph again.

Forward Glen shaped with promise on his hurdling debut at Carlisle in November and should be good enough to win the Lottians Racing Syndicate Maiden Hurdle.

The five-year-old, who won a National Hunt flat race earlier this season, was only beaten a head by Thistleford after making a mistake at the third-last flight. That experience should stand him in good stead now.

Martin Pipe has gained a reputation of working miracles with horses who have been off the track for long periods, and he can do so again with Mincechoma in the Cockington Novices' Chase at Newton Abbot.

Two seasons ago the gelding won four times over hurdles, including when beating Remittance Man by 12 lengths at Newbury. A reproduction of that form would be enough to land the prize today.

Finally, on the allweather at Southwell Meeson Times, a winner here three weeks ago, can follow up that success in the Chatworth Handicap.

King's Curate keeps Mellor smiling

KING'S Curate, the top-class staying hurdler, made a successful chasing debut in the John Burns Memorial Novices' Chase at Ayr yesterday.

Backers had no hesitation in declaring their confidence in the eight-year-old, installing him a 3-1 favourite. Their belief never looked misplaced, as taken to the front early by Simon Earle, he made the rest of the running without a serious jumping error.

He really does need it.

ground to produce his best, that's why I had no worries about coming all the way up here," said Stan Mellor, the Swindon trainer.

King's Curate pleased Earle although the jockey felt he was "a bit too keen" in the early stages.

Mellor's luck has certainly taken a turn for the better. Having had to wait until New Year's day for his first winner of the season, he again completed a double, this time initiated by Timur's

King in the Dalrymple Novices' Hurdle.

Neale Doughty was shaken in a fall from Abbot Of Furness in the Hurford Novices' Chase and is likely to miss Edinburgh today.

At Lingfield, New Zealand jockey Brett Johnson rode his first winner in Britain on Brunswick Blue in the Many Hands Novices Hurdle. Johnson, aged 27, formerly fifth in the jump jockeys' list in Australia, is based with Geoff Lewis at Epsom. In

Australia, he has finished 151 winners on the flat and 140 over jumps.

Steve Smith Eccles had a less happy time. He received a suspected broken ankle after a first-flight fall from Casauddore, the 11-4 for the Bird in the Hand Handicap Hurdle.

While Smith Eccles faces a spell on the sidelines, Lorcan Wyer is anticipating a swift return to action. Wyer bruised a shoulder in a fall from Gymrac Sovereign at

Catterick on Wednesday but expects to be fit to ride Bollen Patrick in the Towhorth Hurdle at Sandown tomorrow.

In response to racecourse caterers Lethby and Christopher's decision to reduce prices, rivals Ring & Brymer, who operate at six courses, are to consider their policy. Bob Reeves, the regional marketing director, said: "Our prices must always be competitive."

Obituary, page 12

NEWTON ABBOT

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
12.50 Dancing Paddy.	12.50 Dancing Paddy.	2.50 OUR NOBBS (nap).
1.20 Mincechoma.	1.20 Mincechoma.	3.45 Cooke Dodger.
2.20 Sue's Delight.	2.20 Paper Star.	
2.50 Sirrah Jay.	2.50 Oliveston.	
3.20 Tom Clapton.	3.20 Forest Flame.	
3.45 Nikitas.	3.45 Vital Clue.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.50 DANCING PADDY.

GOING: SOFT

12.50 CHELSTON NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: £1,362; 2m 150yd) (16 runners)
1. DOPPEL-SHAKENBY GIFT 255F (P. Dwyer) 5-11-5. P. Scudamore
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1990: ABANDONED - WATERLOGGED COURSE

FORM FOCUS

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12.50 BASSACOMBE SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (Div 1: £1,362; 2m 150yd) (13 runners)

1. DOPPEL-SHAKENBY GIFT 255F (P. Dwyer) 5-11-5. P. Scudamore	11. DOPPEL-SHAKENBY GIFT 255F (P. Dwyer) 5-11-5. P. Scudamore
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1.50 COCKINGTON NOVICES CHASE (Div 1: £1,362; 2m 150yd) (16 runners)

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2.20 HOECHST PANACUR BFF MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,738; 2m 511yd) (16 runners)

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TENNIS

Top seed upset by confident Dunkley

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE Midland Bank national junior championships suffered their first shock yesterday when Jonathan Hind, the No. 1 seed, was knocked out 7-5, 6-4 by Matthew Dunkley.

Although Hind is the top seed, he has never reached a national final and seems doomed never to do so. Dunkley had him on the run from the start, breaking early for a 3-0 lead and then breaking Hind again in the final game of each set to secure victory.

The laid-back Dunkley, complete with his ponytail and flat cap, had a feeling he was going to win the match from the start, despite having lost to Hind 6-0, 6-0 in their last meeting. "Every time he is seeded, he loses early on and I was confident going into the match," Dunkley said.

Dunkley's father is a professional coach in Bedfordshire and, having seen what life is like as a tennis player, the son has no wish to follow in the father's footsteps.

"I have no idea what I want to do, but I know I don't want to stay in tennis," he said. Dunkley Senior is more than happy with his son's decision. Dunkley's doubles partner, Luke Milligan, the No. 7 seed, survived a marathon encounter with Steven Clark to win 4-6, 6-4, 10-8. Milligan, from London, is a middle-distance runner away from the courts and fuels his energetic frame with a diet of steak. Yesterday, he needed every ounce of strength as he ground down his opponent over three hours of gruelling competition.

"It was a patchy match," Milligan said. "Then, at 8-7 down in the third set, I just decided to go for it and it paid off." Unlike his partner, Milligan wants to pursue a career on the circuit if only he can find a way of taking his A levels and playing tennis at the same time.

However, all good things

come to an end and Milligan and Dunkley finally ran out of steam in the doubles, losing to Ben Johnson and Nick Jones. The next time the two boys could have cause to meet may be in the singles semi-finals.

In the girls event, the Essex girls are ruling the roost. The No. 1 seed, Mandy Wainwright, of Chingford, was hardly troubled as she eased past Helen Frankland 6-0, 6-4, while Zoe Mellis, from Woodford Green, disposed of the No. 6 seed, Alison Green, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2.

Green, who is coached by the interestingly-named Segar Bastard, had been stretched in every round so far and against the left-handed Mellis, she finally gave up the struggle. Mellis is one of Olga Morozova's charges at the Rover school at Bisham Abbey and, together with Frances Hearn, who beat Leyla Ogan, is one of only two Bisham survivors in the draw.

Candy Reid almost took her chance of glory yesterday. She gave the No. 8 seed, Tina Croson, a run for her money before losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Adelaide: The top seed, Goran Ivanisevic, reached the quarter-finals of the Australian hard court championships yesterday with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Stefano Pescosolido, of Italy.

Ivanisevic, who says he represents the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Croatia, said he had vowed to take more risks in 1992. "This year is going to be different. I'm just going to do my best in each match and see what happens," Ivanisevic said. "It's going to be tough to beat me this year. I think I'm going to be a new player."

Last year, Ivanisevic slipped out of the top ten to sixteenth on the ATP Tour world rankings list. He will next play his doubles partner, Marc Rosset, of Switzerland.

Results, page 29

Swiss reach Hopman final for first time

Perth: Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and Jakob Hlasek propelled Switzerland into the final of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament yesterday by winning their singles matches against the Spanish sister and brother, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Emilio Sanchez.

Maleeva-Fragniere won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, and Hlasek then overpowered Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 6-3 in just 70 minutes. Switzerland are in the final for the first time and tonight will play Czechoslovakia for the cup. The Sanchez family won this trophy for Spain in 1989.

Maleeva-Fragniere, born in Bulgaria, was more consistent in than Sanchez Vicario, who lost her first Hopman Cup singles match in six appearances, although both players made a series of unforced errors.

Hlasek, born in Czechoslovakia, served and volleyed su-

perbly against the less powerful Sanchez, and also consistently punished the Spaniard's second serve.

The Czechoslovak combination of Karel Novacek and Helena Sukova defeated the top-seeded Germans, Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, 2-1 in Wednesday's first semi-final. A virus forced Graf to default her women's singles against Sukova and she was little more than a passenger in the mixed doubles.

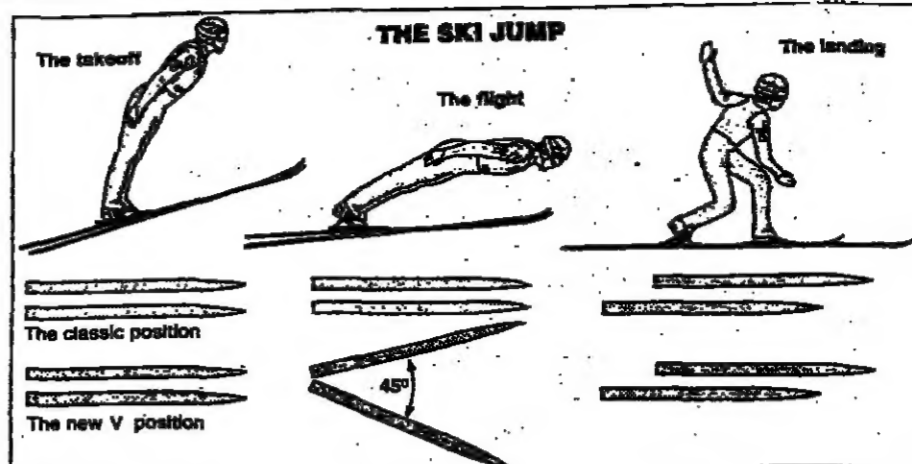
Heinz Gunthardt, Graf's coach, said yesterday that she still was suffering from a middle ear infection and planned to spend two or three days recuperating in Perth.

He said the infection made it unwise for Graf to fly to Melbourne, where the Australian Open will be played from January 13.

RESULTS: Semi-final, Switzerland vs Spain: Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Jakob Hlasek 6-4, 6-3; Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 6-3; Helena Sukova 6-3, 6-4; Karel Novacek 6-3, 6-4; Steffi Graf 2-1.



V-victor: Stefan Zund using the V-style for third place at Garmisch



V-men that take the leap into a new void

TO V or not to V, that is the question. Only seven weeks before the Winter Olympics, the world's great ski jumpers are confronted with a choice: should they stick with the streamlined style they were brought up on, or should they join the revolutionary V-jumpers?

V-jumping involves spreading the skis into a V or scissors position immediately after take-off, instead of keeping them parallel in the classic style. The jumper, using his body as a kind of parachute, floats on the updraft, adding vital metres to his jump, before attempting the orthodox telemark landing, with one ski advanced before the other.

Judging from the results from Garmisch-Partenkirchen this week, the sooner the jumpers convert to the V, the better. The German resort staged the second leg of the Four Hills contest, which this season has attracted all the likely medal contenders in Albertville.

Three V-style jumpers were on the victory rostrum and the fifth-placed competitor, Jim Holland, of the United States, was also a V-man. With his second winning jump of 108.5 metres, Andreas Felder, of Austria, came within half a metre of the Garmisch-Partenkirchen record, despite the

Michael Coleman on a change in style that is carrying ski jumpers into new territory

short take-off gate being used.

To add to the revolutionaries' elation, second-placed Toni Nieminen, of Finland, only 16 years old, who had won the first of the Four Hills competitions at Oberstdorf last Sunday, went into the overall World Cup lead. Second and third in the World Cup are other members of the V brigade, Werner Rathmayr, from Austria, and the Swiss, Stefan Zund, who was third at Garmisch.

With their morale severely bruised, the classicists, led by the world champion, Franci Petek, of Slovenia, take on the V-men again tomorrow in the third part of the Four Hills, at Innsbruck. Petek was fourth on Wednesday at Garmisch with his fellow-stylist, Art Fekka Nikkila, of Finland, only sixth.

Felder, for long a classic stylist and the World Cup winner last season, converted to V jumping almost overnight. Pre-season, he had experimented with the V style but after 150 trial runs, decided not to use it. "But, like the rest of the

Austrians, I notice this season we were not doing so well. There was only one thing to do, and that was to go for it. I went over to V style. Once you master it, it is terrific."

Style can suffer and points thereby lost, but judging from Garmisch, Felder and Nieminen are beginning to achieve perfection. Last season the spreadeagle new style was penalised by judges, but that is no longer the case. The Norwegians and the former East Germans, Dieter Thoma and Jens Weissflog, have yet to convert.

The V-style was introduced three years ago by a Swede, Jan Bokloev, who found difficulty in holding the classic position. He became the subject of ridicule but persisted, despite being deducted three penalty points each time as the FIS (International Ski Federation) regulations then required.

He attracted imitators, especially among younger skiers, who found that with the wider skis then coming into vogue — increased from 10cm to 11cm — they were floating better and attaining distances that previously needed years of practice. The FIS wilted and has now given the jump its recognition.

BASKETBALL

Shackleford cannot hide emotions

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

DALE Shackleford was kidding nobody when he suggested that defeat in the world invitation club championship did not matter to Worthing Bears. "This tournament means nothing. You've got nothing to show at the end of it," the player/coach said, but the look on his face suggested otherwise.

A first-game knockout by New York All-Stars hurt and what made Worthing's 96-79 elimination at Crystal Palace

on Wednesday all the more painful was that it was instigated by Shackleford's old house-mate, Herman Harried. The American scorer of 25 points was living with Shackleford and his wife, Maria, during his season at Worthing two years ago.

After spending the following season with Philippos of Thessaloniki in Greece, Harried was all set for a return to Worthing, until he suddenly discovered that the deal was off.

"I was looking forward to going back but there was

some sort of problem, so I didn't return," he said. Worthing's loss had been New York's gain on court and it was also to the benefit, off court, of juvenile delinquents back home in Baltimore. Maryland that Harried said. Harried has put his 6ft 7in physique to as much use with counselling work. An imposing, charismatic figure with his well-trimmed goatee beard, he feels duty-bound to help young petty criminals and drug dealers.

"I felt that I could relate to those guys as I've made it out

of the city," he said. "I didn't grow up in the ghetto, but I was close enough to understand what was going on."

"I look at myself as someone who didn't have to do those kind of things. I survived. This is an opportunity to tell them that they can do the same."

There were no former team-mates barring King-ton's path in the first quarter-final. They beat Amsterdam Canadians 78-67, but Carl Miller's broken finger will keep him out of the rest of the tournament.

TABLE TENNIS

Douglas rules out comeback hopes

BY RICHARD EATON

DESMOND Douglas, the most successful modern English player who retired from international competition a year ago, will not be making a comeback. The England captain, Donald Parker, had hoped Douglas might become available again, especially with his team trailing 1-3 in the seven-match series

with China and battling to avoid defeat in the series at Grantham last night.

Douglas, who won the European top-12 title and the English national championship a record 11 times, had originally spoken of extending his 17-year international career at next week's English Open. He would also have been particularly useful on the long China tour to relieve

a tiring Chen Xinhua and a struggling Matthew Syed, who has been handicapped by Chinese excellence against backspin defence.

"When I spoke to Des, he was not keen and I understand that," Parker said. Although Douglas has beaten both Syed and the England No. 2, Alan Cooke, and is unbeaten in the British league this season, he is ap-

parently reluctant to risk a damaging defeat.

Chen and Cooke, who both won once in the 4-2 defeat to China at Sheffield on Wednesday, were on duty again last night, along with Syed.

RESULTS: China vs England, 4-2 (China names first: Ding Song lost to Chen Xinhua, 15-21, 21-14, 19-21; Xu Chen beat M Syed, 21-4, 22-20; Chen Hongyi vs A Cooke, 21-18, 19-21, 21-17; Xu Chen beat M Syed, 21-23, 21-18, 21-18; Ding Song lost to Cooke, 18-21, 21-17; Chen Hongyi vs Syed, 21-18, 21-18).

BOXING

Hearn serves up Sherry for Benn

NIGEL Benn is to meet Dan Sherry, of Canada, at London's Alexandra Palace on February 19.

It will be Benn's third appearance at super-middleweight in his promotional agreement with Barry Hearn that is building towards a rematch next summer with Chris Eubank, the man who beat Benn to take the World Boxing Organisation middle-weight title.

The Benn-Sherry match carries an extra element of intrigue as it was the Canadian who came so close to beating Eubank when they met in Brighton last year.

That bout became infamous for Eubank's backward butt. The champion was penalised points and was fortunate to keep the title he had taken from Benn four months earlier. The British Boxing Board of Control also punished Eubank's indiscretion with a £10,000 fine.

Sherry, introduced to professional boxing by Sugar Ray Leonard, still contends that he had the beating of

Eubank and, in many estimations, deserved to be ahead before the tenth-round upsurge.

Benn has won his three comeback fights since losing to Eubank 14 months ago, but if he should lose to Sherry, the Canadian would have prior claim to a rematch against Eubank this summer.

Billy Hardy, meanwhile, plans a return to boxing, just seven months after announcing his retirement. Hardy, aged 27, made four successful defences of the British bantamweight title but was knocked out by the International Boxing Federation champion, Orlando Canizales, in Texas in May — and quit the ring.

It was the Sunderland boxer's second attempt to wrest the title from the American. Their first contest ended with Canizales winning on a split decision. "I needed a rest from boxing, but now find I am missing it too much," Hardy said yesterday. "I hope to be fighting again by the end of February."

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Cowboys feeling confident

BY ROBERT KIRLEY

THE four National Football League play-off fixtures this weekend feature rematches of lopsided games played earlier this season. More will be expected of the conference semi-finals, which will determine the last four clubs on the road to Super Bowl XXVI in Minneapolis on January 26.

On November 10, only the dock could stop the Washington Redskins, who scored steadily against the Atlanta Falcons until the tally was 56-17. On October 6, the Denver Broncos played away to the swarming Houston Oilers, who blocked an early punt. Denver vainly looked for a soft place to land and the Oilers won 42-14.

When the Kansas City Chiefs hosted the Buffalo Bills on October 7, Buffalo flaunted an undefeated record yet fell 33-6. The Bills skulked away like fugitives from the World League of American Football. On October 27, the Dallas Cowboys,

refreshed by a week off, travelled to the Silverdome, blew what few opportunities they had and were routed 34-10 by the Detroit Lions.

Never mind that the average margin of those games was 29.5 points: the coaches always dismiss previous match-ups. Jimmy Johnson, the Dallas coach, said this week: "Those results can be



Glanville: inspirational

discarded. There is enough motivation with the positive goals in front of us."

Dallas, who have a six-game winning streak, have defeated Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington away, but the Lions, led by the sensational Barry Sanders, are unbeaten at home.

Jerry Glanville, the black-clad Atlanta coach, will want his swaggering "too legit to quit" squad to show a prudent degree of discipline against the by-the-book Redskins, who had a first-round bye. American oddsmakers favour the home teams — Washington by 13 points, Denver by three, Buffalo by ten and Detroit by two.

FOOTNOTES: Conference semi-finals (won-loss records in brackets, kick-off times GMT). Tomorrow: NFC: Atlanta Falcons (11-6) at Washington Redskins (14-2), 17.30. AFC: Houston Oilers (12-5) at Denver Broncos (12-4), 21.00. Sunday: AFC: Kansas City Chiefs (11-6) at Buffalo Bills (12-3), 17.30. NFC: Dallas Cowboys (12-5) at Detroit Lions (12-4), 21.00. Conference finals: January 12. Super Bowl XXVI: AFC champions vs NFC champions (January 28 at the Hubert H Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis).

Miami are crowned college champions

THE University of Miami were elected college champions yesterday, for the second time in three years and the fourth time since 1983, after beating the University of Nebraska 22-0 in the Orange Bowl on Wednesday (Robert Kirley writes). January 1 is the traditional day for six of the leading bowl games.

In voting by a panel of reporters convened by the Associated Press, Miami received 32 first-place votes to 28 for the University of Washington, who beat Michigan 34-14 in the Rose Bowl.

Miami and Washington did not face each other this season, both finishing with records of 12 wins and no defeats. Unlike most other college sports, the big clubs do not play a tournament to determine who is best.

The bowl games, promoted by local businesses in sunny climates, provide fodder for season-ending ballots and a winter of debate by supporters. A

poll of coaches sponsored by USA Today and CNN had Washington No. 1 and Miami No. 2.

"When we heard the [Washington] score, it was like a foot race to win by more than they did," Eric Miller, a Miami defensive end, said.

Miami, who led 13-0 after scoring on their first three series, held the Nebraska Cornhuskers without a first down until late in the first half. The Cornhuskers failed to score for the first time in 221 games, dating to 1973. Nebraska, the best rushing team in the country during the season, gained only 82 yards on the ground.

RESULTS: Orange Bowl (at Miami): Miami 22, Nebraska 0. Rose (Pasadena): Washington 34, Michigan 14. Peach (Atlanta): East Carolina 37, North Carolina State 34. Hall of Fame (Tampa): Syracuse 24, Ohio State 17. Citrus (Orlando): California 37, Clemson 12. Cotton (Dallas): Florida State 10, Texas A & M 2. Fiesta (Tempe, Arizona): Penn State 62, Tennessee 17. Fiesta (Phoenix): Miami 2, Washington 3. Penn State 4, Florida State 3. Allstate (Memphis): Michigan 7, Florida 6. California 6, East Carolina 10, Iowa.

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°C)	Temp	Last snow fall
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	80 140	good	open	bright	-3C	22/12
	(78 lifts and 80 pistes. Runs to resort icy in morning.)					
Chamonix	120 230	good	open	fine	-4C	22/12
	(43 lifts, pistes. Cross-country skiing available)					
Les Menuires	60 130	good	open	sunny	-3C	24/12
	(All pistes and lifts. Cross-country available)					
Tignes	105 185	good	most	sunny	N/A	22/12
	(59 lifts, all pistes. Skiing on glacier)					
Val d'Isère	115 170	good	open	sunny	N/A	22/12
	(38 lifts, 63 pistes. Lower runs icy in morning)					
Valmorel	80 140	good	N/A	bright	-3C	23/12
	(29 lifts, nearly all pistes)					
AUSTRIA						
Ellmau	25 60	good	open	bright	-04C	28/12
	(Excellent powder on upper slopes. 10 lifts)					
Kitzbühel	50 130	good	open	fine	-10C	28/12
	(64 lifts, 58 runs. 70km of cross-country)					
Obergurgl	105 130	good	open	bright	-4C	27/12
	(21 lifts, one cable car)					
Saalfeld	120 210	good	open	sunny	-4C	28/12
	(All lifts, 80km of cross-country)					
SWITZERLAND						
Andermatt	70 130	good	open	fine	-13C	27/12
	(Powder snow, good conditions)					
Champery	80 120	good	open	bright	0C	27/12
	(All lifts. Powder on upper slopes)					
Gstaad	10 80	fair	open	fine	-8C	27/12
	(150km on glacier. 62 out of 80 lifts)					
St Moritz	100 120	good	open	sunny	-8C	22/12
	(Good powder higher up. All lifts and pistes)					
ITALY						
Cervinia	70 120	good	open	bright	0C	28/12
	(Up to 2 metres on glacier. 24 lifts, 35 runs and Zermatt link)					
Courmayeur	40 70	fair	open	bright	0C	22/12
	(22 lifts, most pistes. Zermatt link open. Resort busy)					

Supplied by Ski Holidays. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

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Reid ready to bid again for Bould Francis faced by injury fears before FA Cup tie

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE manager of Sheffield Wednesday, Trevor Francis, may lose as many as six first-team players to illness and injury for the FA Cup third-round tie at Preston tomorrow.

Among those doubtful is the England international, David Hirst, who could be out for up to six weeks after being carried off with a torn thigh muscle in the 1-1 draw with Oldham Athletic on New Year's day.

The defenders Nigel Pearson, Paul Warhurst, Viv Anderson and Roland Nilsson all missed the fixture with Oldham, at Hillsborough because of flu, and there is a further worry over the fitness of Paul Williams, who substituted for Hirst on Wednesday and then picked up an ankle injury.

Francis said yesterday: "To lose Hirst is a big blow. He has been in good form. And I don't expect Paul Warhurst, Nigel Pearson or Viv Anderson to be fit enough for Saturday."

Francis, who is not fit himself following an ankle injury picked up in November, could give Gordon Watson another chance to partner Nigel Jenson up front if Williams is ruled out for the Preston match.

Manchester City have not lost interest in signing Steve Bould from Arsenal, despite being given a firm refusal from George Graham, City's player-manager, Peter Reid, this week had a bid of £750,000 rejected, but said: "I am still keen to sign him and will probably make another attempt."

Reid also made it clear that the move to strengthen his squad was no reflection on the form or position of another central defender, Steve Redmond. He added: "Steve has no need to worry about his place. He has been brilliant for us."

"It's simply a case of trying to strengthen our very small squad. If you are going to achieve success, you must have strength in depth."

Redmond was no so sure. He said: "Naturally, I am concerned about my prospects. If we were to sign another central defender, I have spoken to the manager and can understand his view in wanting all-round cover, but I am worried that if a new central defender was signed, I would be the one to be edged out. I can't see the manager buying an expensive defender to play him in the reserves."

Reid, who has joined the full back, Andy Hill, and the

midfield player, Steve McMahon, among those being treated for hamstring injuries at Maine Road, said: "I came back for the match against Liverpool after being out for five weeks with splintered ribs and I may have done too much too soon. My hamstring tightened up yesterday. Hopefully, the damage has been minimised and I'll be okay for the FA Cup tie at Middlesbrough."

The Notts County midfielder, Paul Harding, is hoping for a transfer to another club so he can pay off his mounting bills. The former Barnet player believes he earned more when he was working as a builder.

"My situation is serious," Harding said. "The only reason I want a move is to get my slice of the transfer money. If I was sold, it would solve my problems."

The Brighton forward, Mark Farrington, aged 27, is facing an operation on a groin injury which will keep him out of action for six weeks.

Wolverhampton Wanderers have been refused permission to play the on-loan Aston Villa centre-half, Derek Mounfield, in tomorrow's FA Cup third-round tie at Nottingham Forest. Villa do not want the player cup-tied.

Blackpool have signed the Leeds United full back, Dylan Kerr, aged 24, on a month's loan. Blackpool have also freed the former Birmingham City forward, Carl Richards, and he has signed for Enfield, the Diadora League club.

Mel Peje, aged 32, the longest serving player at Hereford United, yesterday joined Wrexham for around £7,000.

Jason Beckford, the Manchester City player, is considering a £50,000 move to the third division club, Birmingham City. The younger brother of Darren, who was formerly with City but who completed a £925,000 move to Norwich City in the summer, has been unable to command a regular place in City's team.

He has made nine full appearances for the Manchester club and 16 as substitute, scoring twice. He made his debut at Middlesbrough in 1988 and has been on two loan periods.

Pearce's players are good value



FA CUP

BY WALTER GAMMIE

FOR Ted Pearce, Farnborough Town's third-round FA Cup tie against West Ham United at Upton Park tomorrow is a handsome reward for the lasting qualities he has brought to the club over two unbroken decades as manager. The rise of Farnborough from park football to third place in the GM Vauxhall Conference was founded in patient application of unwavering principles.

The Farnborough team that beat Torquay, of the third division, 4-3 in a famous second-round replay and will now run out against the first division side, cost Pearce £12,000 to assemble. Half of that was on Mick Doherty, the midfield player, a record signing from Runcorn last season. The contest will form a classic contest of the professionals against part-timers.

"I have heard it said that may of the big names in the game would benefit from going away on a two-week management course," Pearce, who also applies his administrative skills on behalf of British Rail, said.

These days, Pearce can afford the luxury of a management team, headed by a coach, Alan Taylor, who was schooled in the West Ham academy but is not, Pearce stresses, the man who scored the two goals that won the 1975 FA Cup final against Fulham.

Pearce's helpers extend to a goalkeeping coach, Mike Savage, the physiotherapist, Alan Morris, and Ken Ballard, the reserve team manager. It is all a far cry from 1970-1, when Pearce took over as player-manager of a ragged outfit that played on a mud-soaked football ground and had little more than a set of kit to its name.

"I'd describe myself as not a very good non-league player," Pearce said. "What I had was a great passion for the game and a great enthusiasm for doing things right, for doing them in a professional fashion. I brought a high degree of discipline to the club and those things stay here today: organisation, professionalism, discipline and honesty."

Key men in the rise of Farnborough were the



On right track: Pearce, the Farnborough manager, in his office at Euston

"pied pipers", the players well-known in Sunday football circles in the town who were persuaded by Pearce to pledge themselves to Farnborough on Saturdays. "I knew I'd cracked it when I phoned a guy and he said 'you've got to and so playing for you, haven't you'?" Pearce said.

Now, Pearce is able to approach professional clubs with confidence and "say to young players that they are better off in the first team here rather than in the second or third teams of Football League clubs. We are well-organised and

they are often surprised by the standard of football". Danny Holmes, an attacking midfielder player from Bourne, a full back from Brighton and Hope Albion, have both been at Cherrywood Road this season on loan.

Pearce also kept a close watch on the movements of Dean Coney, the former Fulham and Queen's Park Rangers forward, invalided out of the Football League and homesick in Hong Kong.

He has settled happily with Farnborough as the at-

tacking partner for Simon Read, a prolific goalscorer, moved into Farnborough after marrying a local girl and decided to play his football locally. "He's very laid back but very determined," Pearce said. "He's got a very special talent."

That pair will look to capitalise on any offerings by the West Ham defence. "I hope we play well," Pearce said. "If we do play well, you never know. A lot will depend on how West Ham play and if they play extremely well, we can't really expect any result."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Salford lead the chase for Gallagher

SALFORD and Leigh are leading the chase to sign John Gallagher, the former All Black rugby union full back who has been out of favour at Leeds.

Leeds are willing to release Gallagher, who gained 18 international caps before turning professional in a four-year £350,000 deal 18 months ago. Gallagher, aged 27, scored 13 tries in 30 appearances for Leeds last season, but has lost his place to the New Zealand full back, Morvin Edwards, since the arrival at Headingley of Doug Laughton as coach.

Leeds, the league leaders, are prepared to waive a transfer fee if another club can negotiate a deal with Gallagher for the remainder of his contract. Leigh had tried last month to sign Gallagher on loan, but are now looking at a permanent deal. Salford are also interested, and Gallagher may prefer to join a first division club.

Warrington's Welsh half back, Kevin Ellis, is free to play against Leeds on Sunday after being found not guilty following his sending-off on Boxing Day.

Ellis was sent off for an alleged high tackle in the match at Widnes, but was cleared of any offence by a league disciplinary committee last night.

Leigh have made a new offer to sign St Helens' back, David Tanner, who turned down a move to Hilton Park two weeks ago after the clubs agreed a £15,000 deal.

Mark Lee, Salford's acting captain in the absence of the injured Ian Bleasdale, will miss Sunday's match against St Helens with a thigh injury.

Redmond tops bill

THE £51 million indoor arena in Birmingham opens its doors to athletics for the first time today, with Derek Redmond topping the bill.

The Birchfield athlete who ran the second leg in the 4 x 400 metres at the world championships, will make a rare appearance in the 800 metres at the two-day Birmingham Mint Games.

England games off

Volleyball: The women's matches between England and Lithuania in London today and tomorrow have been postponed because the Lithuanians are unable to leave Moscow.

Cheadle challenge

Lacrosse: Cheadle, undefeated in two years, meet their close rivals, Heaton Mersey, tomorrow in the most important game of their season.

Payne to step in

Cricketer: Andrew Payne, the seam bowler, has been called up for England's under-19 tour to Pakistan after the Gloucestershire fast bowler, Jason De La Pena, fell ill.

Samuelson switch

Athletics: Joan Benoit Samuelson, the winner of the first women's Olympic marathon, will try to win a place in the United States team at 10,000 metres instead.

Pele heads poll

Football: Abedi Pele, the Olympique Marseilles forward, has been voted Africa's Footballer of the Year in a poll run by Afrique Football magazine.

Crawley veteran filled with Cup optimism

TONY Towner is ready to retire if Crawley Town, the non-League side, are beaten in the FA Cup by Brighton, his former club, in the all-Sussex third-round tie at the Goldstone Ground tomorrow.

The winger, aged 36, was tempted out of retirement to play in Crawley's victory over Northampton Town and Hayes in the previous rounds. He said: "Perhaps I'll carry on if we win, but if we lose, it happens and we lose. I'll probably call it a day."

Towner spent six years with Brighton after signing as a teenager in 1972 and, although he went on to play for Millwall, Rotherham United, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Charlton Athletic, he says his happiest spell was with Brighton.

Towner's experience has

played a big part in Crawley's best Cup run in the club's 95-year history, and he firmly believes the side has a real chance in the first Cup match between Sussex teams in nearly 60 years.

He said: "If we had drawn Leeds, Manchester United or Liverpool, realistically you're going to go out, but with Brighton I honestly think we can do it."

"Brighton are going through such a bad patch and that has to improve our chance. There's bound to be a big crowd and we will have strong support with around 5,000 Crawley fans to boost us."

The Middlesbrough midfielder, Mark Proctor, has been ruled out of the home FA Cup third-round tie against Manchester City on Saturday with a knee injury.

MOTOR SPORT

World sportscar series set to survive

BY STEVEN SLATER

MAX Mosley, the president of Fisa, the world governing body, gave hope of a quick and positive decision on the fate of the world sportscar championship, when he opened the auto sports international show at Birmingham's NEC yesterday.

The championship has been threatened with extinction following an apparent lack of interest by competitors and spectators in 1991, but Fisa agreed that if 20 teams reaffirm their commitment by January 31 the championship will continue. Yesterday Mosley indicated that enough entries may have come forward and he will be delighted to push for an early

decision to allow the teams to complete their plans.

"We have 13 serious contenders who want to run cars in the world championship and a further eight who are keen to run in Europe in the FIA cup," said Mosley. "With this level of commitment it would be a shame to cancel the series, and to help the teams I will be pushing for a committee decision as soon as possible perhaps even in the next few days."

Good news for the championship, too, was the first sight at the auto sports show of two new British challengers for the series. It is claimed that the radical new Allard J2X has some of the most advanced aerodynamics of any car and features a distinctive

needle nose and ultra-narrow cockpit to generate aerodynamic downforce to increase its cornering grip.

"We think that we have the most efficient racing car chassis ever built," said the car's designer, Chris Humberstone. "In fact we have so much downforce for cornering that spectators shouldn't be too surprised to see Allard drivers wearing fighter-pilot-style G-suits."

The second new sports car, built by the Lola racing car company, features a Formula One-type Judd V-10 engine which has already allowed the car to match the lap times of the front-running Jaguars and Pegasuses in initial tests at Donington Park. Tim Harvey, the British driver, has

been tipped for inclusion in the Eurocrack Lola team's driver line-up for 1992, alongside Cor Euser of the Netherlands.

Britain's most popular national motor-racing series, the Esso British Touring Car Championship is to be run by a totally new company, replacing the RAC Motor Sports Association, which previously handled the day-to-day organisation of the series.

For the next five years, Toca Ltd, a company owned by four of the leading team owners, will run and promote the championship. "We don't intend to make any quick decisions which would jeopardise a successful formula," said Toca spokesman Alan Gow.

THERE was no let-up by Mitsubishi as the Paris-Cape Town rally got underway yesterday day after its enforced one-day break. The Japanese constructor took the first three places in the eighth stage.

Kinjiro Shinozuka, of Japan, won the 695-km stage from N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, to Sarh in the south of the country ahead of Erwin Weber, of Germany, and Hubert Auriol, of France, who retained the overall lead.

The rally was interrupted on Wednesday for security reasons following clashes between Chadian troops and rebel forces as competitors made their way to the capital under military escort.

About 20 competitors in

the motorcycle section failed to reach the capital on Wednesday night and camped about 300km away, missing the start of the stage. Though they were later able to catch up, they were penalised by 26 hours in the overall standings.

Auriol, who had his problems when his car hit a tree, is still around 33 minutes ahead of Weber and 35 minutes in front of Shinozuka in the standings, two weeks from the finish in South Africa.

In the motorcycles, Danny Laporte, of the United States, won the stage on a Cagiva, pulling back some of his deficit on the overall leader, Stephane Peterhansel, of France. Peterhansel was

fourth, 41sec behind, but led by 5min 24sec at the end of the day.

Today's ninth stage takes the rally 660 kms to Bouar in the Central African Republic.

LEADING POSITIONS: Stage 8: Cars: 1, K. Shinozuka (Japan), Mitsubishi, 1hr 51min 15sec; 2, E. Weber (Ger), Mitsubishi, 1hr 15min 15sec; 3, H. Auriol (Fr), Mitsubishi, 1hr 25min 45sec; 4, P. Laporte (US), Cagiva, 1hr 30min 45sec; 5, A. Vatanen (Fin), Citroen, 1hr 32min 45sec; 6, P. Walleghard (Swe), Citroen, 1hr 33min 45sec; 7, J. Benoit (Bel), Citroen, 1hr 34min 45sec; 8, A. Andriano (It), Citroen, 1hr 35min 45sec; 9, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 36min 45sec; 10, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 37min 45sec; 11, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 38min 45sec; 12, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 39min 45sec; 13, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 40min 45sec; 14, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 41min 45sec; 15, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 42min 45sec; 16, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 43min 45sec; 17, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 44min 45sec; 18, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 45min 45sec; 19, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 46min 45sec; 20, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 47min 45sec.

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS: Stage 8: Cars: 1, K. Shinozuka (Japan), Mitsubishi, 1hr 51min 15sec; 2, E. Weber (Ger), Mitsubishi, 1hr 15min 15sec; 3, H. Auriol (Fr), Mitsubishi, 1hr 25min 45sec; 4, P. Laporte (US), Cagiva, 1hr 30min 45sec; 5, A. Vatanen (Fin), Citroen, 1hr 32min 45sec; 6, P. Walleghard (Swe), Citroen, 1hr 33min 45sec; 7, J. Benoit (Bel), Citroen, 1hr 34min 45sec; 8, A. Andriano (It), Citroen, 1hr 35min 45sec; 9, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 36min 45sec; 10, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 37min 45sec; 11, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 38min 45sec; 12, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 39min 45sec; 13, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 40min 45sec; 14, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 41min 45sec; 15, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 42min 45sec; 16, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 43min 45sec; 17, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 44min 45sec; 18, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 45min 45sec; 19, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 46min 45sec; 20, J. Alesi (Fr), Agip, 1hr 47min 45sec.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

CURRIE CUP (second day of four): East London: Natal 158 (J. Rhodes 52, I. Howes 38) and 17-2. South: 100 (D. O'Connell 52, R. Morkel 47). Cape Town: Transvaal 222 (D. O'Connell 73, M. Pienaar 57). Western Province 220-9. Port Elizabeth: Orange Free State 401 (M. Crowe 112, F. Steyn 71). Eastern Province 211-4 (K. Wessels 118).

CYCLING

COLOGNE: Six-day race: Leading positions (after mid stage): 1, R. Shumilov (Ger) and B. Hutter (Swi), 2 laps; 2, A. Kappas (Ger) and E. Loe (Bel), 33; 3, J. Gantner (Ger) and S. Tournier (Bel), 26; 4, J. Gantner (Ger) and J. Vagberg (Den), 11 laps.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Washington Capitals 8, New York Islanders 5. RUSSIAN: Championship: United States 5, Canada 3. Czechoslovakia 5, Community of Independent States 0. Switzerland 3, Finland 2, Germany 0.

YACHTING

TAURANGA, New Zealand: Flying Dutchman world championship: First round: 1, P. Scott and G. Dwyer (NZ), 0 (00pts); 2, M. Jones and G. Knowles (NZ), 3 (00); 3, L. Santella and F. Grass (It), 5 (70); 4, A. Wilson and C. Kammann (Ger), 8 (00); 5, J. Borge and M. Jorgensen (Nor), 8 (00); 6, K. Bergstrom and M. Gagne (Swe), 11 (70).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Glasgow High 11, Motherwell 6; Edinburgh 35, Kirkcaldy 11; South 27, Kilmarnock 25.

FOR THE RECORD

TENNIS

TELFORD: Midland Bank national junior championship: Boys: Second round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 3rd round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 4th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 5th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 6th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 7th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 8th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 9th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 10th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 11th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 12th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 13th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 14th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 15th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 16th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 17th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 18th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 19th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; 20th round: G. Jones (Wim) bt J. Allen (Lanc), 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.



Kepler Wessels: century for Eastern Province

YACHTING

Spanish plan second voyage of discovery

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

THIS year's 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus promises to draw together one of the largest gatherings of sail-training ships since the the American bi-centenary celebrations in 1976.

The Spanish organisers of the event expect more than 200 ships, including most of the eastern bloc, United States and South American square riggers, to congregate in Cadiz on May 5 for the start of a three-month, 5,000-mile voyage that will end in Liverpool on August 14.

The course takes the fleet to the Canaries, then across the Atlantic to Puerto Rico before arriving for a parade of sail off New York on July 4. The last time the fleet sailed down the Hudson River on the

same day in 1976, more than 5 million people lined the shores.

The vessels, which all carry young trainees, then visit Boston before re-crossing the Atlantic bound for Liverpool.

Joining the fleet as far as Boston will be a group of former Whitbread yachts led by Pierre Fehrmann's ketch-rigger, Merit, with the initial stages forming part of this year's Offshore Maxi world championship series.

The Russian Red Star America's Cup challenge has told the organisers that they will have their yacht in San Diego before the January 15 deadline.

If the Red Star boat arrives before the deadline, then the rival Age of Russia boat already in San Diego will have no place in the Cup.

مكتبة في لندن

Rugby faces conflict between pay and play

BY PETER BILLS



Guscott: modelling job

THE growing conflict between the business interests of leading rugby union players and their allegiance to the game itself was underlined last night when Jeremy Guscott put a modelling assignment before a vital Courage Clubs Championship match for Bath on Saturday and an England squad training session 24 hours later.

Guscott will be in mid-air over the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday while his club colleagues play an important league game. It is an indication of the fine line continually trodden by the leading players in what remains an amateur sport.

Bath are mightily concerned at the loss of arguably their finest player. They meet Harlequins at The Stoop ground, Twickenham, in the league match of the day and an injury crisis within the side has exacerbated the problem.

The prospects of Guscott flying out of London on Saturday morning for Miami, only a couple of hours before his colleagues play their most crucial match of the season to date, is alarming for Bath. The England centre apparently could not delay his departure until Saturday evening.

But Bath recognise the delicate nature of the matter. Jack Rowell, their coach, called it "a sensitive issue". He said: "There is recognition within the club that Guscott's increasing business activities have arisen in lieu of his transfer to a rugby league club."

A club official said: "You can't have it both ways. Rugby wanted him to stay in the amateur code and not go professional so you have to accept it when he is not available."

Rowell was careful to defuse any suggestion of a dispute within the club over the affair. He said: "There is nothing wrong whatsoever with Jeremy's attitude and no bad feeling."

"Jeremy returned home early from a previous trip to America to play for us in the league match against Bristol just before Christmas. He didn't have to come back then but he did."

"Nevertheless, I have to say it is not the best thing to happen at a time like this. You need your best people for all of your league matches."

"But the pressures on the top players are continuing to grow and grow and this is simply an indication of just that."

Bath can ill afford his loss. They have more than a dozen first-team squad players injured and face the prospect of having to play some of them tomorrow at less than 100 per cent fit.

The match may prove critical to the outcome of the Courage championship and Bath, who have already been deducted a point for fielding an ineligible player, and lost a game to Orrell, cannot realistically afford another defeat.

Guscott has played just four matches for Bath this season — three in the league and a Pilkington Cup tie — and has been replaced in the England squad for the weekend session by Gavin Thompson, of Harlequins.

The absence of the Bath centre, combined with the uncertain match fitness of several other England internationals, can hardly be reassuring for England only 15 days before they begin the defence of their grand slam crown against Scotland at Murrayfield.

Mickey Skinner, the back-row forward, plays his first senior match since the World Cup final for Harlequins tomorrow.

Dean Richards, the No. 8, is also back for Leicester but Geoff Cooke, the England manager, hinted last night that his return may have come too late for selection against Scotland.

"Mickey has played a couple of second-team games but Dean is the one of most concern to us because he has hardly played any rugby at all. At this stage, it is a bit late for him," Cooke said.

The readiness of certain other England players for international rugby may also be the subject of some speculation, although Cooke insisted he had no great worries on the subject.

Neither Rob Andrew or Jeff Probyn have played first-team rugby recently and Brian Moore returned after his post-World Cup lay-off only days before Christmas.

Most of the others have been playing recently, and Cooke said: "I don't see it as a problem. These guys keep themselves very fit, even when they are not playing in the first team."

"But they will probably all play on January 11 — a week before the Calcutta Cup match — and we shall have to keep our fingers crossed they do not get injured."

Of Guscott's absence, Cooke pointed out that this weekend's England session was an extra one and not on the original schedule. "But it is obviously a big blow to Bath not to have him," the England manager said.

Touchline tyrants, page 26

'Nightmare' defeat gives hopes to pursuers

United desert high ground in their title chase

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE psychological high ground, as well as the leadership of the first division, has been deserted by Manchester United. As soon as they had been elevated to the position of clear Football League championship favourites, they meekly surrendered their advantage in a manner that even their own manager, Alex Ferguson, found incomprehensible.

For a couple of his players to be off colour on New Year's day might have been tolerable. For the whole side to be so pale stretched the limits of credibility. Was the consequence, a 4-1 humiliation by Queen's Park Rangers, merely a blip or a sign of a more lasting deficiency?

Ferguson insists that he does not expect to be let down so badly again. But "the nightmare", as he described their woeful contribution to the fixture at Old Trafford, could haunt them not only during the forthcoming cup ties against Leeds United, but when they resume their League programme next weekend.

Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool and Scotland defender, believes that the defeat, United's heaviest at home since 1978, may not be catastrophic.



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds Utd	24	19	10	4	42	19	48
Man Utd	22	14	6	2	43	18	48
Sheff Wed	23	11	7	5	31	24	40
Manchester C	24	11	7	6	33	30	40
Liverpool	23	9	11	3	27	18	38
Aston Villa	23	11	3	9	34	25	36

Hansen can recall the formidable Liverpool side he led enduring "days when you know that nothing is going to go right."

"That is how it looked for United, and how they react to it will be a genuine measure of their ability to win the title."

United's response to their only other League defeat this season, at Sheffield Wednesday on October 26, was to win six of their next seven games. The run, which propelled them back to the top of the table, indicated that they might indeed be resilient enough to stay there until May 2.

Doubts have been raised not only in their own minds, but in the minds of the pursuers. They might have imagined that United, who could have been five points clear with two games in hand, were destined to end a champion-

ship-less sequence lasting 25 years.

Followers of United have yet to be convinced. It was significant, for instance, that a small section of younger supporters, celebrating Neil Webb's goal against Leeds at Elland Road last Sunday, was advised by their elders to stop a particular chant. "We're going to win the League," they had been singing.

The crowd on Wednesday seemed almost to sense before the kick-off that something was amiss.

Ferguson had earlier expressed the same fear but nobody could have foreseen that United would sink to such depths. Bryan Robson, surely, would not have presided over the widespread capitulation.

Nor would the most efficient defence in the first division have become so vulnerable. In the absence of their captain, United have conceded eight goals in their last three matches, a statistic which confirms that, in spite of his advanced age, Robson remains an essential member of Ferguson's line-up.

Lee Sharpe was similarly essential last season, especially in the European Cup Winners' Cup, but his long-awaited return was complicated amid the most dispiriting of circumstances.

United's stunning reverse will, inevitably, reinforce the belief in their chances not only of Leeds — one of seven first division clubs who remained unbeaten in their three games over the festive period — but also of the more distant challengers. Even Liverpool, another to avoid defeat, can still consider themselves to be in realistic contention.



Home run: Neil Fairbrother, the leading scorer in their one-day win over Auckland in the first match of their tour, completes another run in his total of 44. Photograph by Graham Morris

Tufnell turns things his way

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AUCKLAND

THERE may be no obvious elation attached to the scrambled victory over a provincial side with a single ball to spare, but beneath the bare bones of yesterday's result at Eden Park lay relief and encouragement for England's cricketers.

The casualty rate among touring teams taking their first tentative steps, like a child in new shoes, is alarmingly high and Auckland, the strongest side in New Zealand, were determined to increase it. They, after all, had bowled out the last Pakistan touring team for a humiliating 48. For Graham Gooch's similarly under-prepared players, this was a daunting fixture to face only four days after entering the country from the festive midwinter of home.

It could have gone better. With an original asking rate of only three runs an over, England should not have been risking embarrassment by still requiring seven from the game's final over. Nor should Neil Fairbrother and Allan Lamb, after batting for 31 and 20 overs respectively, have given themselves up to the sort of shots they might play if anxious to get the next man in during a benefit game.

"We would like to have won more comfortably," Gooch said. "And probably we should have done." But this was a minor carp. Gooch will be pleased that Fairbrother and Lamb, in addition to Smith and Hick, had such time in the middle and he will

know that, the frantic finale notwithstanding, England were winning at an impressive canter for much of the game. Indeed, Auckland's captain, Jeff Crowe, confessed that it was only in the last over that he felt his side had any chance at all.

The most pleasing aspect of the touring team's game was the discipline of the bowling and fielding. After only two days of outdoor practice in a new climate, it is by no means a formality to step out and perform in the field as if it was August at Edgbaston. Yet England managed it.

Four of the bowlers conceded well below three runs an over. There was not a single no-ball, not a single catch dropped and no sign of the red-faced incompetence of last winter's outcrist in Australia.

A sweet moment, heartily applauded by Gooch, came when Philip Tufnell, the hapless epitome of England's hamstrung fielding a year ago, saved an apparently certain four struck by John Wright, chasing, diving and returning with a previously unsus-

pected commitment and agility.

This, however, was simply the aperitif of Tufnell's day. Called upon to bowl the eighteenth over, with Auckland cruising at 51 for one, he reduced them to 90 for six with a spell which showed the merits of an attacking spin bowler in limited-overs cricket.

Tufnell's four, top-order wickets were not gained by the attritional methods beloved of the majority of recent English slow bowlers. He did not seek to stop the batsmen scoring and then regard a frustrated victim as a bonus. He set out to take wickets through guile and deceit.

"You've got to attack to defend," he said.

Gooch gave a deeper insight into the bowling which won this game. "He has got flight and variation, those are his strengths. Some slow bowlers, like John Emburey, like to bowl to a tight line and length but Phil mixes it up and attacks. I would never look to interfere with him. He bowls how he wants to."

This is good news, not least

for Tufnell, whose confidence drained away on his first tour. If given his head to bowl in his refreshing, hit-me-if-you-can style, he could first be a match-winner on the slow Test pitches of this country, and then relegate the more limited Richard Illingworth to a bystander in the World Cup. These are early days, and the optimum remains a distant ambition for one with Tufnell's volatile temperament, but if he has won over his captain's faith and confidence, he is well on the way.

The New Zealand captain, Martin Crowe, was among the more intent observers, and, despite Auckland's defeat, it is likely that up to seven of them will reappear under Crowe in the first one-day international here next Saturday.

Their new-ball attack of Morrison and Chris Pringle was impressively lively on such a lifeless surface, stripping away the England openers within five overs. Smith was a tougher nut and looked solid until surrounded by a flying left-handed catch at mid-off by Justin Vaughan, a 24-year-old skin specialist who was born in Hereford.

Fairbrother, advancing down the pitch to bowlers of medium-pace, added 43 in 14 overs with Lamb, but both were out to needless, head-in-air excesses and Hick, at No. 6, had a game to win.

He mixed strokes of command with some of ugly conception but despite two balls of beamer height from Pringle, he saw England through, if only by dint of an inside-edged four to fine-leg.

Happy return of old winner

BY PHIL YATES

CLIFF Thorburn, who was close to death 14 months ago, beat Dene O'Kane 5-3 to reach the fifth round of the £325,000 Mercantile Credit Classic at Bournemouth yesterday, evidence that he and his snooker are in good health.

The 1980 world champion spent four weeks in hospital in October 1990 recovering from a poisoned appendix and a blood clot on the lung. He lost 26lb in weight.

Thorburn, who finished the 1990-1 season 35th on the ranking list, was his old self against O'Kane, ranked 18. From 1-2 he made breaks of 40, 53 and 45 to lead 4-2. At 65-0 in the next his place in the last 32 seemed assured.

However, O'Kane produced a match-saving 73 clearance to win the seventh frame on the black only for Thorburn to fashion a 68 with his first scoring opportunity in the following frame.

Thorburn said: "To go from being a top seed straight into the rat race is quite a culture shock. Playing in qualifying rounds at the start of the season was awful for me."

Steve James battled against a nasal and chest infection, which has caused him to take a course of antibiotics over the Christmas period, during a 5-3 victory over Mark Johnston-Allen.

James, the world No. 7 and winner of this event in 1990, recovered from the loss of the first two frames to lead 3-2 before Johnston-Allen, who beat Stephen Hendry in the European Open earlier in the season, won the sixth on the black to level.

James snatched the seventh on a respotted black and a fluke on the black in the eighth took him through to the fifth round against Ken Doherty, who beat Tony Drago 5-0.

RESULTS: Fourth round: Doherty (Rep of Ire) bt A Drago (Malta), 5-0; D Fowler (Eng) bt J Wright (Eng), 5-2; M O'Sullivan (Ire) bt M Davies (Eng), 5-2; S James (Eng) beat M Johnston-Allen (Eng), 5-3; D Taylor (N Ire) beat P Fothergill (Eng), 5-0; S D White (Eng) bt M Price (Eng), 5-2; C Thorburn (Eng) bt D O'Kane (Rep of Ire), 5-3; G Rees (Eng) beat S Newbury (Wales), 5-0.

S Africans offer to take lead

Johannesburg: South African officials pledged to help develop tennis on the Continent yesterday after being admitted to the African Tennis Confederation.

Chris Ncube, president of the new, non-racial body Tennis South Africa, said: "South Africa is expected to play a major role in the development of African tennis."

The game in South Africa has been played mainly by whites and many urban areas enjoy facilities of an international standard.

Tennis South Africa, which was provisionally readmitted to the International Tennis Federation in October, is expected to stage two ATP grand prix events this year and to send players to the Barcelona Olympics. (Reuters)

Crowds on course to break 20m

A CHRISTMAS surge has put the Football League back on course to break the 20 million attendance barrier for the first time in ten years. An extra 140,000 supporters pushed through the turnstiles over the holiday period compared to the same spell last year — although 22 more matches were played — boosting hopes of a sixth consecutive season of growth for the League before it disintegrates next summer.

Recognising that there are more games because of the addition of a 93rd club, a League spokesman said: "We are confident that will combine with a bigger first division to take us well past the 19.5 million mark of last year." With 1.5 million supporters attracted in the last seven days, the aggregate total for the season is nearly half a million up on last year at 10,799,478. Clubs have already played 53 more games, giving an average of 10,064, down 25 on last season's figure.

Attendance	Games	Ave
1991-2...	1,522,771	137 11,115
1990-1...	1,382,083	129 11,057
1989-90...	1,549,443	136 11,362

Replay short cut for Liverpool

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LIVERPOOL have been given special permission to bend the FA Cup rules by staging a replay with Crewe Alexandra at Anfield within two days of the original tie, if it is drawn.

The FA approved Liverpool's request to bring forward a possible second meeting to Wednesday — FA rules prohibit replays within ten days of the original match.

The restriction was made reluctantly at the request of the police, who were worried about providing adequate manpower at short notice.

But the wording of the new rule allows an opt-out if both clubs and the police reach agreement over a date. "This really drives a bus through our regulation but, as all the parties seem to be happy, we agreed to the date," Steve Clark, the FA Competitions secretary, said.

The original tie is being played on Monday for the benefit of BSkyB television. Liverpool told the FA they could not stage a replay between January 12 and 24 because of building work on a stand to comply with the Taylor report.

"We reminded Liverpool they would be breaking a rule," Clark said. "And we said the Merseyside police would never agree. But they had no objection."

"If Liverpool were involved in the Rumbelows Cup it would have been out of the question. And we would not have granted permission if they had been playing one of the big Manchester United or Everton."

Cliff Rush, the Liverpool forward, is to undergo more surgery on the knee injury that has restricted his senior appearances this season (Ian Ross writes).

Although Rush underwent a cartilage operation six weeks ago, the problem persists and it is unlikely that he will resume training before the middle of next month.

"It is more serious this time," Graeme Souness, the manager, said. "Ian has been suffering from swelling around his knee and after our surgeon had carried out a thorough examination it was decided that another operation was necessary."

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